SATURDAY
December 16, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/whatsapp
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

Vol. 54 • No. 296

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

iPlanet | Premium Partner

India's Largest

Apple Premium Partner Store

@ Indiranagar

iPhone 15

iPhone 15	With Exchange	Without Exchange
MRP	₹ 79,900	₹ 79,900
Store Discount	₹ 2,400*	₹ 5,593*
HDFC BANK Instant Cashback	₹ 5,000*	₹ 5,000*
Exchange Value	₹ 21,550*	N/A
CASHIFY Exchange Bonus	₹ 8,000*	N/A
Effective Price	**₹ 42,950***	**₹ 69,307***

50%* OFF on AppleCare Services Protect+ with AppleCare Services

Book Now

Offer Vaild only on 16 & 17 Dec'23

upto ₹18,000* off on other iPhone models

EMI starts at
₹1,998*
(on exchange)

0 Down Payment | 24 months No cost EMI
BAJAJ FINSERV | HDFC BANK

*T&C Apply

87540 66461

100 Feet Road, Next to BlueStone,Indiranagar, Bengaluru.

SATURDAY
December 16, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/whatsapp
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

Vol. 54 • No. 296

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

Heartfelt Birthday wishes to our
FORMER CHIEF MINISTER of Karnataka
SRI H.D KUMARASWAMY
Our nation is witnessing the dedication & excellence with which is your contribution towards India's progress.
K. N. CHAKRAPANI
BJP Leader & President - Chakrapani Foundation (R)
Bangalore North, Karnataka

MAHUA'S EXPULSION

Supreme Court 're-lists' case on January 3

NEWS » PAGE 12

SECURITY BREACH

Intruders in Parliament

A look at what transpired in Lok Sabha on Dec. 13

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 11

AS DEATH TOLL MOUNTS

U.S., Israel discuss scaling back Gaza war

WORLD » PAGE 16

Protests rock Parliament over security breach row

Both Houses adjourned till Monday as Opposition members continue stir over MPs' suspension, and seek statement from Shah; RS Chairman, LS Speaker reject their adjournment motion notices

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after 14 Opposition members were suspended for disrupting Parliament proceedings, both the Houses were adjourned till Monday as protests continued over the issue of security breach.

While the Lok Sabha barely functioned for a couple of minutes on Friday, the Rajya Sabha too did not take up any business other than customary laying of papers. Both the Houses did not take up the question hour, zero hour, and the private members' businesses on Friday over the issue of security breach in the Lok Sabha. The Opposition members, who had moved notices to take up the matter as adjournment motions, continued their protests as Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla rejected the notices.

When the Lok Sabha met at 11 a.m., the proceedings were chaired by BJP MP Rajender Agarwal instead of Mr. Om Birla. Almost immediately, Opposition members trooped into the well of the House, carrying placards and raising slogans against the government and demanded a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah over the security breach.

The carrying of placards was in solidarity with their colleagues who were suspended for carrying the same. The Chair adjourned the House till 2 p.m. in less than a minute and then it was adjourned for the day soon after it met in the post-lunch session.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Issue escalates: Opposition MPs stage a protest at Makar Dwar on the Parliament premises in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

Lalit Jha was the 'mastermind' of the act, say police

NEW DELHI
Lalit Jha, who surrendered to the Delhi Police on Thursday, has been described by the police as the alleged "mastermind" of the security breach in the Lok Sabha. He was produced in a court on Friday and sent to seven-day police custody. » PAGE 12

High-powered panel to be formed to study regional imbalances

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday announced that a high-powered committee led by a renowned economic expert of Karnataka would be set up to study regional imbalances again in terms of development.

A high-powered committee led by D.M. Nanjundappa, in its report in 2002, had identified 39 taluks as most backward, 40 as more backward, and 35 as backward. Of the most backward taluks, 26 were in North Karnataka while the Old Mysore region had accounted for 13.

In six months

Announcing the formation of a new high-powered committee, while replying to a debate on the issues related to North Karnataka in the Legislative Assembly on the last day of the winter session of the State legislature in Belagavi, the Chief Minister said the committee would be asked to submit its recommendations within six months.

He pointed out that measures had already been implemented to tackle regional imbalance as per the recommendations of the Nanjundappa committee.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Interest waiver

BELAGAVI
As a drought-relief measure, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday announced a waiver of interest on medium-term and long-term loans availed of by farmers from cooperative banks if they pay up the principal amount. » Page 8

Paddling in ice

Rough ride: A boatman breaks a layer of ice on the partially frozen Dal Lake in Srinagar. NISSAR AHMAD

Sharma sworn in as CM of Rajasthan

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Sanganer MLA Bhajanlal Sharma was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Rajasthan at a mass ceremony on Friday, attended by thousands of BJP workers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several Union Ministers, and the CMs of BJP-ruled States were in attendance. Governor Kalraj Mishra administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Sharma and Deputy Chief Ministers Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination
NEW DELHI | CHENNAI
Interview Guidance Programme (2023-24)
South Centre at Chennai
Vajiram & Ravi has a unique record of having achieved 'All India First Rank' for 20 years, including in 2023.
IAS
BECOME THE MOST CONFIDENT VERSION OF YOURSELF
FEATURES OF OUR INTERVIEW MODULE:
Available in Offline & Online Modes
2 Mock Interviews in Chennai Centre and 1 Personal Sitting with Mr. P.S. Ravindran in Delhi
An Interview Panel of Experienced Civil Servants and Personality Trainers
Classes on Current Economic Issues
Guidance Session on Ethical Governance & Optional Subjects
DAF-II Filling & Session on 'How to Face the Interview' by Mr. P.S. Ravindran
SCAN TO KNOW MORE:
Register Now
ENROL ON: www.vajiramandravi.com
Chennai Centre: New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna nagar, Chennai - 600040
Ph: 044-4330-2121 | Email: online@vajiramandravi.com

NEARBY

Govt. urged to undertake fresh caste census

BELAGAVI
Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha, in a petition signed by many community leaders including Ministers, urged the State government to undertake a fresh and "scientific" caste census based on facts, and alleged that the 2015 survey was "factually inaccurate". » PAGE 8

Steep decline in child sex ratio

BENGALURU
Although Chickballapur has recorded the lowest child sex ratio at birth in 2022 at 868 (for every 1,000 males as per CRS data), it is Bengaluru Urban which has seen the steepest decline of 25.2% last year in comparison to 2021. » Page 7

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGES 4 & 5

Karnataka wins legal battle over 'KSRTC' as Kerala loses the case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following a prolonged legal struggle for intellectual property rights, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has secured legal ownership of its trademarks, including the abbreviation KSRTC.

Both Karnataka and Kerala SRTCs have been using the acronym KSRTC for many decades now. However, Karnataka SRTC registered the abbreviation and its logo with the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks. In a release on Friday, KSRTC said that the Madras High Court had said that there was no legal prohibition for use of KSRTC by Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, and that the Court had dismissed Kerala SRTC's claim for exclusive use of KSRTC acronym.

"KSRTC had applied for a grant of Trade Mark Certificate for use of 'KSRTC' acronym. The Corporation was granted Trade Mark Certificates by the Trade Mark Registry of Government of India in 2013 with user date from 1.11.1973. Copyright is also obtained from the Registrar of Copy Rights, for use of 'KSRTC' Logo and 'Gandabherunda art'," KSRTC said.

"Thereafter, Kerala State Road Transport Corporation has challenged the same before the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) at Chennai. KSRTC has contended that Kerala State Road Transport Corporation is aware of the use of the trade mark by the Karnataka SRTC since 42 years and hence they are not entitled to apply for a declaration that the registration of the later trade mark is invalid, since they have acquiesced the usage of mark by Karnataka SRTC," release added.

The Kerala RTC too has obtained registration of the marks in 2019 claiming prior use. The matters which were pending before the IPAB were transferred to the High Court of Madras at Chennai after abolition of IPAB by the Central Government.

"The matter was posted before the High Court of Madras on December 12 and the High Court has dismissed the application filed by Kerala SRTC and the case is decided in favour of Karnataka SRTC. In view of the dismissal of the case filed by Kerala SRTC, the Karnataka SRTC has no legal hurdle to use the name "KSRTC" in future also," KSRTC release stated.

A study in scarlet: the trials and tribulations of Charles Leclerc

The Monegasque driver is every bit the generational talent Max Verstappen is. But his time at Ferrari has been tinged with misfortune and disappointment. Both driver and team will need to get their act together quickly in 2024 to have any hope of stopping Verstappen and Red Bull

S. Dipak Ragav

At the Brazilian Grand Prix, Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc had a huge moment on the formation lap when his car's hydraulics failed, and he crashed, which meant he could not start the race. Immediately after that, the 26-year-old groaned on the team radio, saying, "Why am I so unlucky?". He could not have summed up his and Ferrari's situation any better.

The Monegasque is arguably one of the fastest drivers in Formula One, and there is a case to be made that he might even be a fraction quicker than Max Verstappen over one lap in Qualifying, as evidenced by his 23 pole positions. However, with just five wins in as many years, it's clear that he hasn't yet had a consistently strong car on Sundays, when it really counts.

While the world's eyes are on Verstappen after three consecutive world titles, Leclerc is every bit the generational talent the Dutchman is; he is even a few weeks younger than his rival.

When Verstappen burst onto the scene at 17, people were in awe of his sheer speed, his spectacular car-handing and, most of all, his precocity. But it also meant that he had to learn things the hard way, smoothing the rough edges in the full glare of the limelight.

Leclerc, on the other hand, had a more traditional route into F1, winning the GP3 and F2 titles before making his debut in 2018 with the Sauber team, where he excelled, thus earning a promotion to Ferrari in 2019.

In his first season at a big team, Leclerc beat Sebastian Vettel and handed his illustrious teammate a shellacking the following year (2020) when the car was even slower, conjuring up performances that the four-time champion couldn't get close to. So it was unsurprising that Ferrari let go of Vettel, having seen enough evidence that it had a strong driver in Leclerc to lead the team forward. In 2021, he extended his contract until the end of 2024.

However, the last three years of the deal have been one of disappointment tinged with misfortune and some driver errors – a partnership that promised much has yielded very little.

If 2021 was Ferrari's year of recovery after a miserable 2020, 2022 was a season of missed opportunities. It started well, with a competitive car capable of fighting for wins. But its development could not match Red Bull's. To make things worse, the team's reliability woes and strategic blunders cost Leclerc a handful of wins – something no team looking to sustain a title challenge can afford, and the fight with Verstappen fizzled out from the mid-season point.

This year, the graph, which had been trending upward since 2020, hit a ceiling and, worryingly, started trending downward. Especially at the start of the year, the car was not just slow but also unpredictable in a way that even someone of Leclerc's calibre could not drive around. In some races, the lap times fluctuated wildly between stints. The Ferrari was not kind to its tyres either, suffering from high degradation. Despite this, Leclerc managed five pole positions but could not convert them to victory, illustrating the team's race-day weakness.

The five-time Grand Prix winner also had some mediocre races this year, making uncharacteristic mistakes. At times, teammate Carlos Sainz looked the faster of the two, not something Leclerc is accustomed to. And on the one weekend when Red Bull dropped the ball in Singapore, it was Sainz who was there to pick up the pieces. Leclerc was forced to play rear-gunner to the Spaniard, who took the only non-Red Bull win of the season.

A part of the reason for Leclerc's struggles was that the SF-23 did not suit his driving style. He is the kind of driver who can live with a bit of rear instability in his car and use his natural talent to overcome it. Some of the most gifted drivers prefer this oversteer balance, where the car has a sharp front-end and gives the driver immediate feel when turning the steering in the entry to a corner. The flip side of an unstable rear-end is that it can suck the confidence of drivers and even hurt the tyres, but the likes of Verstappen and Leclerc aren't worried about it.

This year's Ferrari tended to have a lot of understeer, which played to Sainz's strength. "We have had two parts of the season: pre-Japan and post-Japan, at least on my side," Leclerc said in Abu Dhabi. "I feel much more at ease since Japan. We worked on the consistency of the car in different conditions, which helped a lot with my driving style. I like quite a lot to have an oversteer-y car and a strong front, which in the first part of the season I couldn't quite do."

The Italian team got an upgraded floor at Suzuka, which, while not adding a lot of performance, helped shift the balance to Leclerc's liking. And he duly delivered, finishing the season strongly with three podiums in the last four races. But despite the late surge, 2023 will go down as another missed opportunity for driver and team.

Now, after five years at Maranello, Leclerc is at a crossroads. He finds himself in a situation Fernando Alonso and Sebastian Vettel faced after a similar amount of time in Ferrari. Both the aforementioned drivers had years when the team either failed to give them a competitive car or was not sharp enough with race operations when they had a car to fight for the title.

But unlike the two, Leclerc is yet to win a world title and has much more at stake in hitching his bandwagon to the Scuderia, which hasn't won a championship since 2008. Granted, he has a more natural bond with the team that has nurtured him from a young age. But how long before his patience wears thin?

Last year, the team's strategic blunders and reliability issues forced him into a mistake in Paul Ricard while leading the race. The uncharacteristic driver errors this year were consequences of a desperate driver trying to push beyond the car's limits to find lap time.

Although the rumours have suggested that Leclerc is close to signing a long-term extension at Ferrari, Alonso and Vettel's career trajectory in the scarlet overalls serves as a cautionary tale. In that context, 2024 could be a pivotal year for the future of the Leclerc-Ferrari combination and its hopes of stopping the Verstappen-Red Bull juggernaut.

> As we understood our weak points, the factory fully responded and committed to making improvements sooner. I am 100% convinced that we will take a step forward next year
>
> **CHARLES LECLERC**

GETTY IMAGES

> [Ferrari has] the right ingredients to give the drivers a chance of winning the championship, especially Charles. There are still little elements of strategy, of little mistakes in pit stops that still creep in. And that's the things they've got to iron out
>
> **JOHNNY HERBERT**
> Former F1 driver

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Novak Djokovic	36	11,245	18
2	Carlos Alcaraz	20	8,855	18
3	Daniil Medvedev	27	7,600	22
4	Jannik Sinner	22	6,490	23
5	Andrey Rublev	26	4,805	25
6	Stefanos Tsitsipas	25	4,235	24
7	Alexander Zverev	26	3,985	27
8	Holger Rune	20	3,660	23
9	Hubert Hurkacz	26	3,245	24
10	Taylor Fritz	26	3,100	26
11	Casper Ruud	24	2,825	24
12	Alex de Minaur	24	2,740	25
13	Tommy Paul	26	2,665	26
14	Grigor Dimitrov	32	2,570	23
15	Karen Khachanov	27	2,520	22

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 138 ▲ No change

Ramkumar Ramanathan
Rank 442 ▲ 81 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	22	9,295	19
2	Aryna Sabalenka	25	9,050	16
3	Coco Gauff	19	6,580	19
4	Elena Rybakina	24	6,365	18
5	Jessica Pegula	29	5,975	20
6	Ons Jabeur	29	4,195	21
7	Marketa Vondrousova	24	4,046	16
8	Karolina Muchova	27	3,650	15
9	Maria Sakkari	28	3,620	24
10	Barbora Krejcikova	27	2,880	21
11	Beatriz Haddad Maia	27	2,855	23
12	Madison Keys	28	2,816	18
13	Jelena Ostapenko	26	2,720	23
14	Petra Kvitova	33	2,660	17
15	Qinwen Zheng	21	2,660	23

Top Indians ▶

Ankita Raina
Rank 207 ▼ 1 spot

Karman Thandi
Rank 328 ▼ 5 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Liverpool	16	11	4	1	36	15	21	37
2	Arsenal	16	11	3	2	33	15	18	36
3	Aston Villa	16	11	2	3	35	20	15	35
4	Man. City	16	10	3	3	38	18	20	33
5	Tottenham	16	9	3	4	33	23	10	30
6	Man. United	16	9	0	7	18	21	-3	27
7	Newcastle	16	8	2	6	33	21	12	26
8	Brighton	16	7	5	4	33	28	5	26
9	West Ham	16	7	3	6	26	30	-4	24
10	Fulham	16	6	3	7	26	26	0	21
11	Brentford	16	5	4	7	23	22	1	19
12	Chelsea	16	5	4	7	26	26	0	19
13	Wolves	16	5	4	7	21	26	-5	19
14	Bournemouth	16	5	4	7	21	30	-9	19
15	Crystal Palace	16	4	4	8	15	23	-8	16
16	Nott. Forest	16	3	5	8	17	28	-11	14
17	Everton *	16	7	2	7	20	20	0	13
18	Luton Town	16	2	3	11	17	32	-15	9
19	Burnley	16	2	2	12	16	34	-18	8
20	Sheffield	16	2	2	12	12	41	-29	8

Everton deducted 10 points following a breach of the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability Rules. The decision is currently under appeal

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	15	12	2	1	37	7	30	38
2	Juventus	15	11	3	1	23	9	14	36
3	AC Milan	15	9	2	4	26	18	8	29
4	Roma	15	7	4	4	28	17	11	25
5	Bologna	15	6	7	2	18	12	6	25
6	Napoli	15	7	3	5	26	18	8	24
7	Fiorentina	15	7	3	5	24	18	6	24
8	Atalanta	15	7	2	6	24	18	6	23
9	Monza	15	5	6	4	16	14	2	21
10	Lazio	15	6	3	6	16	16	0	21
11	Torino	15	5	5	5	13	16	-3	20
12	Frosinone	15	5	4	6	20	24	-4	19
13	Lecce	15	3	8	4	17	20	-3	17
14	Genoa	15	4	3	8	15	20	-5	15
15	Sassuolo	15	4	3	8	22	28	-6	15
16	Cagliari	15	3	4	8	15	27	-12	13
17	Udinese	15	1	9	5	12	25	-13	12
18	Empoli	15	3	3	9	10	27	-17	12
19	Verona	15	2	5	8	13	22	-9	11
20	Salernitana	15	1	5	9	11	30	-19	8

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Girona	16	13	2	1	38	20	18	41
2	Real Madrid	16	12	3	1	34	10	24	39
3	Atletico Madrid	15	11	1	3	32	14	18	34
4	Barcelona	16	10	4	2	30	18	12	34
5	Athletic Bilbao	16	8	5	3	31	19	12	29
6	Real Sociedad	16	8	5	3	29	18	11	29
7	Real Betis	16	6	8	2	19	17	2	26
8	Las Palmas	16	7	3	6	14	13	1	24
9	Getafe	16	5	7	4	18	20	-2	22
10	Rayo Vallecano	16	4	8	4	16	22	-6	20
11	Valencia	16	5	4	7	17	21	-4	19
12	Alaves	16	4	4	8	14	20	-6	16
13	Villarreal	16	4	4	8	22	29	-7	16
14	Osasuna	16	4	4	8	18	26	-8	16
15	Real Mallorca	16	2	8	6	14	20	-6	14
16	Sevilla	15	2	7	6	20	21	-1	13
17	Cadiz	16	2	7	7	13	23	-10	13
18	Celta Vigo	16	1	7	8	15	25	-10	10
19	Granada	16	1	5	10	20	36	-16	8
20	Almeria	16	0	4	12	17	39	-22	4

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Leverkusen	14	11	3	0	39	12	27	36
2	Bayern	13	10	2	1	44	14	30	32
3	Stuttgart	14	10	1	3	34	16	18	31
4	RB Leipzig	14	9	2	3	34	15	19	29
5	Dortmund	14	7	4	3	28	23	5	25
6	Hoffenheim	14	7	2	5	28	24	4	23
7	Eint. Frankfurt	14	5	6	3	24	16	8	21
8	SC Freiburg	14	6	3	5	17	23	-6	21
9	FC Augsburg	14	4	5	5	23	27	-4	17
10	M'gladbach	14	4	4	6	28	31	-3	16
11	Wolfsburg	14	5	1	8	18	25	-7	16
12	Werder Bremen	14	4	2	8	20	27	-7	14
13	Heidenheim	14	4	2	8	21	30	-9	14
14	Bochum	14	2	7	5	15	29	-14	13
15	Union Berlin	13	3	1	9	15	28	-13	10
16	Cologne	14	2	4	8	10	24	-14	10
17	Mainz	14	1	6	7	12	26	-14	9
18	Darmstadt	14	2	3	9	17	37	-20	9

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Kane Williamson	864	919
2	Joe Root	859	923
3	Steve Smith	842	947
4	Babar Azam	829	882
5	Marnus Labuschagne	826	937
6	Travis Head	818	884
7	Usman Khawaja	796	847
8	Daryl Mitchell	786	804
9	Harry Brook	773	773
10	Rohit Sharma	759	813

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	R. Ashwin	879	904
2	Kagiso Rabada	825	902
3	Ravindra Jadeja	782	899
4	Pat Cummins	775	914
5	Shaheen Afridi	762	836
6	Ollie Robinson	762	820
7	James Anderson	761	903
8	Nathan Lyon	760	799
9	Prabath Jayasuriya	751	781
10	Mitchell Starc	742	806

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Shubman Gill	826	847
2	Babar Azam	824	898
3	Virat Kohli	791	911
4	Rohit Sharma	769	885
5	Daryl Mitchell	750	750
6	David Warner	745	880
7	Rassie van der Dussen	735	796
8	Harry Tector	729	729
9	Heinrich Klaasen	721	756
10	Dawid Malan	707	730

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Keshav Maharaj	741	741
2	Josh Hazlewood	703	733
3	Mohammed Siraj	699	736
4	Jasprit Bumrah	685	841
5	Adam Zampa	675	695
6	Rashid Khan	667	806
6	Kuldeep Yadav	667	765
8	Trent Boult	663	775
9	Shaheen Afridi	650	688
10	Mohammed Shami	648	657

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	865	910
2	Mohammad Rizwan	787	875
3	Aiden Markram	758	796
4	Babar Azam	734	896
5	Rilee Rossouw	695	724
6	Dawid Malan	691	915
7	Ruturaj Gaikwad	681	700
8	Reeza Hendricks	674	674
9	Jos Buttler	666	674
10	Glenn Phillips	649	703

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Ravi Bishnoi	692	699
1	Rashid Khan	692	816
3	Wanindu Hasaranga	679	797
3	Adil Rashid	679	746
5	Maheesh Theekshana	677	684
6	Sam Curran	659	688
7	Fazalhaq Farooqi	657	692
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	656	745
9	Akeal Hosein	655	681
10	Tabraiz Shamsi	654	821

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. MYS-COMML-12-GMU-2023
Dated: 11.12.2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites tender for award of license to install and operate four (4) Catering Stalls (General Minor Units) each at various railway stations on Mysuru Division for a period of five years.

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 12:00 hrs. of 15.01.2024

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
PUB/563/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Mysuru**

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client is intending to Purchase the property more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from its present owners **Sri. Suren Dass and Sri. Roben Dass,** who have represented that they have a clear and marketable title to the same. Any person/s, financial institutions, statutory authorities or any other persons/s representing any private or public companies or any partnership firm or any society who claim any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property and/or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned, **within Seven (7) days** from the date of issue of this notice with documentary evidence failing which, it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and any objection/s or claims made thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owners thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing No.85 I 'N' Block, New Corporation No.31, 1st 'R' Block, having PID No.14-2-31, situated at 20th Main Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore (falling under the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward-67-Nagapura), measuring East to West 49 ft., and North to South 33 ft., totally measuring about 1617 Sq.ft., along with a building constructed thereon measuring about 720 Sq.ft., consisting of Ground and First floors having RCC roofing, mosaic flooring with jungle wood doors and windows and bounded on the:

East by : Property bearing No.86 and 92/17. (earlier 86 and 92)
West by : 30 ft., Road (20th Main Road)
North by : Property bearing No.85/B. (earlier Shop Site)
South by : Property bearing No.85/A. (earlier Shop Site)

B.R.Ravi Kumar, Advocates
No.537, 10th 'B' Cross,
Yelahanka New Town,
BANGALORE-560064

Government of Karnataka

Office of the Director of Printing, Stationery & Publications

R.V. College Post, 8th Mile, Mysore Road,
Bengaluru - 560 059, Phone: 080-28484515/080-28484518

Notification No.DPS05PUR(C)2023-24/CBLS/Call 2 Dated : 14-12-2023

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(through e-procurement)

Online tenders are invited for the **Supply of Printer Consumables (Toners and Cartridges)** under rate contact. Estimated total value of the Tender is about Rs.70.60 lakhs & EMD Prescribed for the tender is as per the following.

Sl. No.	Group No.	Description	EMD in Rs. (in Lakhs)
1	Group A	Canon	0.04
2	Group B	HP	1.50
3	Group C	Konica Minolta	1.85
4	Group D	Ricoh	0.11
5	Group E	Kyocera	0.03

Last date of submission of tender : 30.12.2023, 17.30 hrs.
For detail please visit website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
For further clarifications the above office may be contacted.

DIPR/CP/2583/AKAR/2023-24 **Sd/- Director**

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board

#49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru-01
Ph: 080-2558 6520 / 2558 9112 Fax: 080-2588 6321
e-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in | Website: kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

IFT No:PCB/133/SS/AO/2022-23/1615 Date:13.12.2023

INVITATION OF TENDER
(Through e-procurement portal)
FOR PROVIDING SECURITY SERVICES TO HEAD OFFICE AND OTHER SUBORDINATE OFFICES OF KSPCB (IFT)

The Member Secretary, KSPCB invites Bids from eligible tenderers for providing Security Service to the Board in two cover system through e-procurement platform website **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

The tenderer shall quote service charges as per financial bid in the tender document by referring the Schedule available in the tender document Tenderers are advised to note the technical criteria and qualification criteria specified in section VI & VII to get qualify for award of contract.

Tender document are uploaded in e-procurement platform website **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Tenders shall be accompanied by earnest money deposit to be made through e-payment. Other details can be verified in tender documents as uploaded in website.

DIPR/CP/JA/2562/2023-24 **Sd/- Member Secretary**

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

Tenders are invited for the procurement of the following materials under "GOODS" category on 08.12.2023 as per RTPS requirements through e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** : (1) No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0701, **MS Plates.** EMD: **Rs. 5,200/-.** (2) No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0702, **Welding electrodes and welding rods.** EMD: **Rs. 2,200/-.** (3) No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0704, **Pourable refractory and LRB wool mattress for AOH works.** EMD: **Rs. 19,500/-.** (4) No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0705, **Welding transformer and welding machines.** EMD: **Rs. 10,900/-.** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **22.12.2023, 16.00 Hrs** for all the above tenders. Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (Purchase) RTPS,** KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Dist: Raichur, Cell: **9449597966,** e-mail: **eeprtps@gmail.com**

Government of Karnataka

(URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT)

District Urban Development Cell, Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar

Email : ka.chamarajanagara.dudc@gmail.com Ph. No : 08226-223761

No. DUDC/SWM/Legacy/CR/38/2019-20 (Part) Dated: 07.12.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement portal only)

Deputy Commissioner, Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar invites full time tender from eligible contractors/Agencys under Kw-4 document. Project, Work details as follows. Name of work: Scientific disposal/treatment of (Bio remediation) of Legacy Waste's in landfill site of ULBs (CMC Chamarajanagar, CMC Kollegal & TMC Gundlupet) Chamarajanagar District (DMA/2023-24/OW/Work_Indent9035) Amount put to Tender: 483.43 Lakhs, EMD Amount: 7.50 lakhs, Period of Completion: 09 Months. Last date for submission of bids for the tender is : 06.01.2024 5.30 P.M, Prebid Meeting Venue & date: 21.12.2023 at 11.00 A.M, (Room No.127, DUDC, DC Office; Chamarajangar), Date of opening of tenders technical bids: 08.01.2023 at 11.00 A.M & Date of opening of Financial bids: Informed to technically qualified Contractors, Interested contractors/Agency shall register on the KPP portal to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from KPP Portal platform (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Tenders shall be submitted electronically at www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in EMD and tender processing fees shall also be paid electronically. For further details go through tender document or contact Office of the Project Director, District Urban Development Cell, DC Office, Chamarajanagar during office hours.

DIPR : CHANAGAR:278:2023-24 **Sd/- Deputy Commissioner,** Chamarajanagar District Chamarajanagar

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, BIDAR

Ref:EE/RDWSD/Bidar/PB-04/Tender/2022-23/1693 Date: 15.12.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer RDWS & S Division Bidar invites Tenders from eligible bidders for the works above Rs. 23.55 Lakhs to 129.59 Lakhs (2Nos of works) as per KW-1, KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4 Standard Tender Bid Document under H/A JJM for the year 2021-22 & 2022-23 through e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only. The KTPP Act shall be followed.

TIME SCHEDULE: 1) Notification Date and Download of tender schedule documents through e portal: 15.12.2023 to 22.12.2023. 2) Pre-Bid Meeting at RDWS Division, Bidar. 21.12.2023 Time 11.00 AM Office of the Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Zilla Panchayat Office premises, Bidar-585 401. 3) Last date for submission of bids: 22.12.2023 Time : 17.00 PM. 4) Date & Time of Technical bid opening : 26.12.2023 Time : 11.00 AM. 5) Date & Time of Financial bid opening After Technical bid Approval

For details of works and conditions, please contact this office in office hours or visit website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in where the details are available.

DIPR/Bidar/172/KSMCA/2023-24 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDWS&S Division Bidar.**

KARNATAKA NIRAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(A GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA ENTERPRISE)

Office of the Executive Engineer,KNNL, No.5 Canal Division, Yermarus Camp, Tq:Dist:Raichur

No:EE-5/KNNL/T.S-3/Tender/Budget-2023 /2023-24/ 1046 Date:14.12.2023.

SHORT TERM NOTIFICATION

Tenders in Electronic mode on LUMP SUM TURN KEY are invited on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No-5 Canal Division, Yermarus Camp, Taluq:District:Raichur-584135, in Two cover system (cover I and cover II), under H/A 4701 RDS Sub Division, Gillesguru Camp for the work of "Survey, Investigation, Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Lift Irrigation System (Head Works consisting of construction of Intake Trough, Jack well cum pump house, Vertical Turbine Pumps coupled to HT Motors, Pump house Electrical works, Necessary valves, Delivery Pipe, Manifold system, Power supply including 110 KV /33 KV transformer bay, terminal bay, 33 KV Electrical Sub Station, Transmission line, Raising Main, Pressure Distribution) for filling up of Basappa tank in Gunjalli Village & other tanks of Raichur taluk by lifting water from Tungabhadra River near Chikkamanchale village including Operation and Maintenance for a period of 5 years after successful completion of work for (BASAPPA) TANK FILLING SCHEMEon Turn-Key Basis" for Rs.142.80 Crores, EMD Rs.1.43 Crore from the KPWD/ CPWD Class-1 registration enrolled Contractors /Firm/ individual / JV Partner/ with Tie up partner & other terms and conditions can be obtained through website, kppp.gov.in. or in the office of the undersigned during office hours. Office telephone No.08532-251105, and at email: ee5.divisionyer@gmail.com.

DIP/RCR/335/KSMC&A/332/2023-24 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.5 Canal Division, Yermarus Camp.**

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 • 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 • 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

HEARTIEST
Congratulations
To All Successful Candidates In CSE 2022
VISIONIAS
INSPIRING INNOVATION
ISHITA KISHORE
GARIMA LOHIA
UMA HARATHI N
P SRIJA
ANUMULA SRIKAR
PAVITHRA MUTYAP
"Delhi's Premier IAS Institute in Hyderabad with Delhi Team"
39 in Top 50 Selections In CSE 2022
FAST TRACK COURSE
UPSC PRE - 2024 (GS + CSAT)
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAM
STARTS: 20 DEC
Coverage of UPSC GS Prelims Subjects
Comprehensive, relevant & updated Study Material
Current Affairs Classes
Dedicated Mentorship Support and Guidance for performance Maximisation.
Efficient time utilization with a focus on core topics of the syllabus.
Sectional Mini Tests for regular assessment and performance tracking
PERSONALITY TEST
CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION - 2023
MOCK INTERVIEW
STARTS: 15 DEC
FOUNDATION COURSE 2025
Offline / Physical Classes
STARTS: 22 JAN
SM Plaza, Beside Sudarshan Theatre, RTC 'X' Road, Hyderabad
More information call us
8448449509 | 9000104133
Visit Us At :
www.visionias.in

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KUSHAL Jayeshkumar Shah, S/O Jayeshkumar Rajnikant Shah, R/O B/405, Purvi Lotus Apt, Hsr Sector–2 Near 24th Main Blr–102. Have Changed My Name As "Kushal Jayesh Shah" Vide Afdvt Dtd 13/12/23

I, RATHANLAL Raju Bai, R/a No.59, 1st Floor, 5th Main Road, 6th Cross, Chamaraj Pet, Bangalore-560018 have changed my name to Raj Kanwer Bai vide affidavit dt: 06.12.23 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bangalore

I, JEEVA Mani, W/o Y Joseph, R/a No.105, B Block, 1st Floor, Manjunatha Residency, Kaggadasapura Main Road, Opposite SCT College, Bangalore-560075 have changed my name to Alice Joseph vide affidavit dt: 14.12.2023 sworn before Notary N.Narayana Swamy, B'lore.

I, HABIBA Khanam, W/o Allah Bakash, R/a No.267/2, Nehrupuram, Bharathinagar, Bangalore-560051 have changed my name to Habeeba Khanum vide affidavit dt: 13.12.2023 sworn before Notary S.Samuel Solomon, B'lore

WATER PROOFING

BUILDING SOLUTIONS: Waterproofing roof, Tank, Skylight, Bathroom, House painting, Fabrication, Carpentry, Epoxy coating. Macbond. 9448572697

READ
FRONTLINE
LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984
EVERY FORTNIGHT.
TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT
www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

NEET/ JEE Online Question Bank with solutions with Individual student Login ID. We provide PAST JEE/NEET question BANK banks at 3999/year. Please contact 9940966076

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

Society for Electronic Transactions and Security (SETS)
(Under O/o the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India)
Taramani,Chennai - 600 113.

Advertisement No. SETS/ Chn/ Rec/2023-24/17 &18 dated 9th November 2023.

The above Recruitment Advertisements, which were published on 10th November 2023 in Times of India/ Hindustan Times/The Hindu Classified inviting applications for **4 positions of Senior Scientist,** SETS Chennai on Direct Recruitment Mode. **The last date for receipt of applications is extended up to 1st January 2024.** No other changes in the conditions.

For detailed advertisement and application format, please visit our website **www.setsindia.in**

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-10032023-244232
CG-DL-E-10032023-244232

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 1054] नई दिल्ली, बृहस्पतिवार, मार्च 9, 2023/फाल्गुन 18, 1944
No. 1054] NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023/PHALGUNA 18, 1944

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY

National Highway, K.R.Circle, Bangalore

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 9th March, 2023

S.O. 1098(E).— In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act,1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building(widening/four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of NH169A in the stretch of land from Km 2.00 to Km15.98 (Thirthahalli-Megaravalli Section) in the district of SHIVAMOGGA in the state of KARNATAKA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority National Highway, K.R. Circle, Bangalore in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land from Km 2.00 to Km 15.98 (Thirthahalli-Megaravalli Section) of the NH No.169A in the state of KARNATAKA

State: KARNATAKA District: SHIVAMOGGA

Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectares)
Taluk: Tirthahalli					
Village: Hosahalli					
1	57	Government	Kharab	8,300.00(Sq.M)	0.8300
2	63	Government	Kharab	2,175.00(Sq.M)	0.2175
3	64	Government	Kharab	1,404.00(Sq.M)	0.1404
4	65/1	Government	Kharab	525.00(Sq.M)	0.0525
5	68	Government	Kharab	475.00(Sq.M)	0.0475
6	69/7	Private	Wet	325.00(Sq.M)	0.0325
7	74/3A	Private	Wet	351.00(Sq.M)	0.0351
8	Village	Government	Kharab	1,351.00(Sq.M)	0.1351
Village: Lakkunda					
1	1/8	Private	Wet	25.00(Sq.M)	0.0025
2	1/9	Private	Wet	75.00(Sq.M)	0.0075
3	2/1	Private	Wet	25.00(Sq.M)	0.0025
4	2/2	Private	Wet	51.00(Sq.M)	0.0051
5	2/3	Government	Kharab	25.00(Sq.M)	0.0025
6	2/4	Private	Wet	25.00(Sq.M)	0.0025
7	3	Common	Kharab/Wet	505.00(Sq.M)	0.0505
8	4	Private	Wet	225.00(Sq.M)	0.0225
9	5	Private	Wet	505.00(Sq.M)	0.0505
10	6	Private	Wet	51.00(Sq.M)	0.0051
11	94	Government	Kharab	1,225.00(Sq.M)	0.1225

State: KARNATAKA District: SHIVAMOGGA

Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectares)
Village: Megaravalli					
1	1	Private	Dry	475.00(Sq.M)	0.0475
2	119	Private	Dry	1,404.00(Sq.M)	0.1404
3	120	Private	Dry	975.00(Sq.M)	0.0975
4	122/13	Private	Wet	51.00(Sq.M)	0.0051
5	123	Government	Kharab	1,202.00(Sq.M)	0.1202
6	138	Government	Kharab	1,606.00(Sq.M)	0.1606
7	249	Government	Kharab/Wet	18,600.00(Sq.M)	1.8600
8	250	Government	Kharab/Wet	11,211.00(Sq.M)	1.1211
9	298	Common	Manedala	2,202.00(Sq.M)	0.2202
10	305	Private	Wet	808.00(Sq.M)	0.0808
11	306/1	Private	Dry/Wet/ Garden	2,707.00(Sq.M)	0.2707
12	307	Common	Gramatana	1,404.00(Sq.M)	0.1404
13	332	Government	Kharab	750.00(Sq.M)	0.0750
14	357	Government	Kharab	650.00(Sq.M)	0.0650
15	Manedala	Common	Builtup Area	4,200.00(Sq.M)	0.4200
16	Village	Common	Builtup Area	2,606.00(Sq.M)	0.2606
17	Village	Common	Builtup Area	2,606.00(Sq.M)	0.2606
18	Village	Common	Builtup Area	1,101.00(Sq.M)	0.1101
19	Village	Common	Builtup Area	2,404.00(Sq.M)	0.2404
Village: Mulubagilu					
1	1	Government	Kharab	808.00(Sq.M)	0.0808
2	14	Common	Kharab	12,625.00(Sq.M)	1.2625
3	34	Private	Wet	25.00(Sq.M)	0.0025
4	43	Government	Kharab	5,101.00(Sq.M)	0.5101
5	45/1	Government	Kharab/Wet	151.00(Sq.M)	0.0151
6	47	Government	Kharab	2,404.00(Sq.M)	0.2404
Village: Surali Bale Bailu					
1	1	Private	Wet	225.00(Sq.M)	0.0225
2	3	Private	Dry	1,525.00(Sq.M)	0.1525
3	39	Private	Wet	1,125.00(Sq.M)	0.1125
4	4/1	Private	Wet	909.00(Sq.M)	0.0909
5	4/5	Private	Wet	101.00(Sq.M)	0.0101
6	4/6	Private	Wet	475.00(Sq.M)	0.0475
7	4/7	Private	Wet	1,202.00(Sq.M)	0.1202
8	40/10	Private	Wet	404.00(Sq.M)	0.0404
9	40/11	Private	Wet	150.00(Sq.M)	0.0150
10	40/14	Private	Wet	75.00(Sq.M)	0.0075
11	40/16	Private	Wet	75.00(Sq.M)	0.0075
12	40/17	Private	Wet	150.00(Sq.M)	0.0150
13	40/7	Common	kharab/Wet	175.00(Sq.M)	0.0175
14	40/9	Private	Wet	350.00(Sq.M)	0.0350
15	53 & Town Municipal Tirthahalli, 52, 68	Common	Builtup Area	175.00(Sq.M)	0.0175
16	54/1	Private	Wet	625.00(Sq.M)	0.0625
17	54/2	Private	Wet	450.00(Sq.M)	0.0450
18	54/7	Private	Wet	525.00(Sq.M)	0.0525
19	55	Common	Dry/Wet	450.00(Sq.M)	0.0450
20	56/2	Private	Wet	51.00(Sq.M)	0.0051
21	56/3	Private	Wet	151.00(Sq.M)	0.0151
22	56/4	Private	Wet	101.00(Sq.M)	0.0101
23	56/5	Private	Wet	75.00(Sq.M)	0.0075
24	56/6	Private	Wet/NAK	51.00(Sq.M)	0.0051
25	67/2	Private	Wet	25.00(Sq.M)	0.0025
26	78	Private	Wet	1,425.00(Sq.M)	0.1425
27	Village	Common	Builtup Area	3,700.00(Sq.M)	0.3700
			Total	110,464.00	11.0464

[F. No. 12037/3/2017-KNT (P-6)/3A]
ABHAY JAIN, Dy. Secy.

High Court evaluation for waste collection tender awaited

BSWML has been trying to finalise the garbage tenders from early 2022 and is still unable to do so, amidst opposition by a section of contractors and NGOs

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Currently, in most wards, more money is spent as two vehicles are used for garbage collection. FILE PHOTO

The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd. (BSWML) is now awaiting evaluation of its much delayed garbage collection and transportation tender by the High Court of Karnataka, to recall tenders again.

BSWML has been trying to finalise the garbage tenders from early 2022 and nearly two years into the process is still unable to do so, amidst opposition by a section of contractors and NGOs. The tender that was floated was even recalled once. Under the new proposed tender, a single vehicle will be used to collect wet and dry waste. Currently, in most wards, two vehicles are used for the collection and more money is spent for collection, the civic body argues. The new tender is based on the Indore model, a city that secured top ranks in Swachh Sarvekshan surveys for successive years. However, the city moved from a single vehicle to separate vehicles collecting wet and dry waste, after complaints alleging garbage collectors mixing even segregated waste into one container.

A contractor named Umesh approached the High Court requesting the court to monitor the tender process. The court had asked BSWML to submit tender details in a sealed cover and file an affidavit, which it has done. The ourt is yet to evaluate the tender, following which the tender process will begin again, a senior BSWML official said. However, the petitioner wants the High Court to monitor the entire tender process.

The tender, much touted for how it would overhaul the garbage collection in the city, has not only been mired in bureaucratic red tape, but also attracted opposition from a section of contractors and organisations, presently collecting dry waste. BSWML had floated tenders for 243 wards in 2022, after which it had to recalled, as the Urban Development Department directed the company to send the tender details to a committee for scrutiny. This tender evaluation committee was formed by the previous BJP government after Belagavi-based contractor Santosh allegedly ended life accusing former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa of taking bribe for clearing bills. However, after passing muster of this evaluation, a contractor has again sought evaluation of the tender by the High Court.

Meanwhile, the tender process was kept on the backburner during the Assembly elections earlier this year. However, it was again derailed as the new incumbent Congress government came out with a new notification reducing the number of wards in the city from 243 to 225. The officer said the tender, which was drafted in line with the National Green Tribunal (NGT) guidelines, hit many hurdles but this time the company was confident of passing the evaluation of the High Court.

BBMP to ask for more staff for SWD encroachment survey

So far, of the 3,176 encroachments along storm-water drains, the BBMP has cleared 2,322. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city's civic body has decided to write to the Department of Survey, Settlement and Land Records to deploy more staff to carry out surveys of encroachment of storm-water drains and lakes in the city. Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath held a review meeting on clearing encroachments of storm-water drains and lakes.

"BBMP is in need of more staff to survey SWDs and mark encroachments. After identification of encroachments, tahsildars have to issue orders to clear the encroachment immediately. He also directed officials to work expeditiously to vacate stay secured by property owners in the High Court in connection to encroachment," Mr. Giri Nath said. He also directed officials to prioritise the anti-encroachment drive.

Encroachments cleared

According to the data shared during the meeting, so far, of the 3,176 encroachments identified along storm-water drains, the BBMP has cleared 2,322. The clearing of 854 encroachments is pending, while 155 cases are pending in the courts. The BBMP kick-started the process of issuing demolition orders in 487 cases. In 162 encroachments, tahsildars have issued orders for removal, and the BBMP will be implementing the orders soon.

In the last 15 days, the BBMP has removed 75 storm-water drain encroachments in Mahadevapura, K.R. Puram, Yelahanka, and Bommanahalli. The drive will continue in the coming days.

159 lakes

Of the 202 lakes in the city, the BBMP has identified encroachment on 159 lakes. The officials have written letters about the encroachment to tahsildars in 140 cases, and the Revenue Department has completed a survey of about 40.

Workshop on dementia care

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Dementia India Alliance (DIA), in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. ,will organise a free interactive workshop on dementia care on Saturday, at The Association of Physicians of India, API Bhavan, Vasanthnagar in Bengaluru.

Expert panelists from the field of dementia care will conduct a session on 'Caring for dementia across the spectrum - effective management strategies for different stages.' Doctors P.T. Shivkumar, Head of Psychiatry at NIMHANS, Srikala Bharath, former Professor of Psychiatry and Consultant at NIMHANS, and Vyjayanthi Venkataramu, Assistant Professor at MS Ramaiah Medical College, will guide participants through the session.

DIA president Radha S. Murthy said family caregivers, health care professionals including doctors, allied health professionals such as psychologists, social workers, nurses and service providers can attend the workshop and learn about the different strategies to manage for different stages. To participate, mail DIA at info@dementia-india.org or call 8197368965, she added.

Technical glitch disrupts Green Line services

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The glitch caused commuters to encounter a delay of 35 minutes.

Namma Metro services on the Green Line between Yeshwantpur and Nagasandra in Bengaluru were affected for 35 minutes on Friday, due to a technical issue and the services were restored at 10:50 a.m.

It caused commuters to encounter delays in reaching their destinations. According to metro authorities, normalcy was restored to the Green Line at 10.50 a.m. An official from the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) said, "Between 10.15 a.m. and 10.45 a.m., Green Line services experienced disruptions due to a technical issue at Peenya Industry. The route could not be altered from the depot to the main line, leading to train terminations at Yeshwantpur during this timeframe."

In a release, BMRCL stated that the services of six trains were cancelled beyond Yeshwantpur and short-looped to run back between Silk Institute and Yeshwantpur metro stations.

Passengers stranded

The snag left many passengers stranded at various metro stations, especially in the morning peak hours. Gautam Kumar, a commuter, said he spent 50 minutes waiting for a train at Nagasandra. "The station was crowded, and we finally boarded the train after nearly an hour of waiting," he added.

Sharing her experience, Bhavya Murthy, another metro passenger, said, "At Peenya station, I waited for about 45 minutes to catch a train to reach my office in Jayanagar. The station was quite crowded and it took a while before we could board a train."

In October, a technical snag at the Rajajinagar Metro station caused inconvenience to thousands of commuters on the Green Line. Train services between Yeshwantpur station and Mantri Square-Sampige Road station were cut off after the rear wheel mechanism of a Road cum Rail Vehicle (RRV) got jammed at Rajajinagar metro station.

Veerappan aide Jnanaprakash dead

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Jnanaprakash, an aide of forest bandit late Veerappan, died in his native village Martahalli in Hanur taluk of Chamarajanagar district late on Friday evening.

He was convicted in the Palar blast case of 1993 that had claimed the life of 22 policemen. Jnanaprakash, who had been suffering from cancer, was released from jail in December 2022. He was in his sixties, according to his lawyer P.P. Baburaj. A special court under TADA Act had convicted Jnanaprakash and three others – Simon, Meesekara Madaiah and Bilavendran – and awarded them life sentence, on September 29, 2001. When they went on appeal against the ruling, the Supreme Court upheld the TADA court ruling and also enhanced the punishment to death sentence. The apex court later commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment.

ARDU disappointed over lack of role in Namma Yatri management

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a recent reported conflict, Bengaluru's Auto Rickshaw Drivers Union (ARDU) has now disclosed its differences with the auto-hailing platform Namma Yatri. According to ARDU, Namma Yatri is currently entirely driven by corporate leadership, and to the disappointment of ARDU, the co-ideators, they have no designated role in its current or future management.

Recently, the app, that started out as a collaborative effort between the ARDU and the payment gateway company Juspay Technologies, experienced a separation. Namma Yatri issued a statement addressing this development.

"The ARDU fully supported the creation of Namma Yatri. It was an app developed by ARDU leaders Rudramurthy and (PL) Pattabhirama for Bengaluru's drivers and commuters. The unity of the community was the reason for Namma Yatri's success," said ARDU in a statement.

Statement from Namma Yatri

In a statement, Namma Yatri has recognized the contributions of Mr. Rudramurthy and Mr. Pattabhiram, emphasizing that it represents the entire driver community.

The Namma Yatri app was launched in November 2022 in partnership with the city's autorickshaw drivers.

It is currently an open source and does not take any commission from drivers and is also available in Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). ONDC is a technology platform backed by the Union government to facilitate direct seller-to-customer transactions, cutting out middlemen. Currently, the app service is available in Bengaluru and Mysuru.

Two teachers who had given birth before joining service get six months leave

TH IMPACT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has considered the case of two newly-recruited graduate primary teachers who had claimed maternity leave but had given birth days before joining service in Haveri district, as a special case, and granted them six months Child Care Leave (CCL).

The government issued a notification for the recruitment of 15,000 graduate primary teachers in March 2022 and 13,352 were appointed recently. Of them, the case of two teachers, both posted in Haveri, put the department in a bind.

One of them, appointed to the Bisilahalli Government Model Primary School, Byadgi taluk, had delivered her second child on October 8 and reported for service on October 27.

Another teacher, appointed to the Government Higher Primary school in Hanagal taluk, had delivered her first child on September 26 and reported for service on October 31 and they immediately applied for maternity leave, which were turned down by the Deputy Director of the Department of Public Instruction (DDPI), Haveri district, as maternity leave applied to only cases where the childbirth happened after joining work.

The Hindu had published a report on December 7, 2023, in this regard and B.B. Cauvery, Commissioner of School Education, had said the department would consider this as a special case and try to help the new mothers on humanitarian grounds. The department has now granted Child Care Leave for six months.

Congestion chaos: Bus stand, parking spot or vending zone?

Spoorthi Niranjan
Cheryl Jasline
BENGALURU

Street vendors occupying the pedestrian path at K.R. Market bus stand, causing problems to BMTC bus commuters, in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

People stand on the road waiting for the BMTC bus at the Maruthinagar bus stop on Malleshpalya Main Road, even as a car that has gathered dust is almost permanently parked behind them, blocking half of the access to the bus shelter.

On Jeevan Bima Nagar Road, one stop away from the bus stand, a board on a tree announces that it is a bus stop, though there is no semblance of it being one.

Though the government is coming up with ways to bolster bus ridership by way of introducing the Shakti Scheme and feeder services to metro stations, in several areas across Bengaluru, there are either no bus shelters or the existing ones have been encroached upon by vehicles or vendors. Due to this, people are forced to stand and wait till their bus arrives.

It becomes an exhausting exercise for those who travel by buses with a lesser frequency. Rishita Suresh, a student who commutes from the Marathahalli Junction, said, "I have to wait for the Shivajinagar bus every morning for college and it gets tiring because the bus comes only once every 20-25 minutes. I wish there was someplace to sit."

Another place where there is no bus stand is the Sarjapur Signal stop. Especially during peak hours, people have to wait, only to enter into a crowded bus and stand again. "I find it difficult to wait especially during the rain," said Prakash K., a commuter at the Iblur stop. The Agara Petrol Bunk bus stop also does not have places to sit, so people end up sitting on the slabs next to the petrol bunk.

Inadequate seating

Another problem is inadequate seating, especially at key crowded junctions like Indiranagar, frequented by people commuting between the central parts of the city and residential neighborhoods like Jeevan Bima Nagar, Murgeshpalya, and Vignan Nagar.

The seating issue becomes even worse during heavy rains. Sreelatha, a college student, said, "I usually take the metro to Indiranagar and then a bus home from there. Last week I reached the bus stop around 8 p.m. and missed the bus. I had to wait another hour for the next one when it suddenly started to rain. I didn't have an umbrella and everyone was huddled under the small roof of that bus stop so I got completely drenched. All of us could barely fit into that place till another bus came and half the people got on it."

No signage

Most bus stops other than the major ones exist without any indication of there actually being a bus stop there, and the stops that are present, don't usually have the name of the location attached, creating confusion for those travelers not regularly travelling along these routes.

Another issue people face while at the bus stop is how many buses don't usually stop at the bus stand. This can be dangerous for people to get on or off, and their safety is put at risk. The Kalamandir bus stop right before the Marathahalli bridge is one of the places where there is no stop. "The metro construction has made the roads narrower, and because of this, the buses stopping before these bridges and flyovers create congestion," said Arvind Dev, a techie who commutes by car.

Poor maintenance

Some other shelters are poorly lit. "I feel scared sometimes waiting at this bus stop because there are no lights," said Meera S., a commuter from Koramangala at the Adugodi Police Quarters.

A senior BMTC official said that the maintenance of the bus stops is tasked with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the BMTC has taken up a project to put up digital LED boards informing commuters about the buses arriving at the stop in bus shelters.

The BBMP Traffic Engineering Cell (TEC) officials said, "In the bus shelters that lack facilities, we have decided to renovate and construct new bus bays also to decongest traffic. We want to offer commuter-friendly bus stops."

There are a total of 8,500 bus stops in the city and major bus stands include Majestic, Yeshwanthpur, Kengeri, Satellite bus stand on Mysuru Road, and Shanti Nagar bus stand.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, DEC. 16	
RISE 06:34	SET 17:56
RISE 09:45	SET 21:27
SUNDAY, DEC. 17	
RISE 06:34	SET 17:57
RISE 10:36	SET 22:27
MONDAY, DEC. 18	
RISE 06:35	SET 17:57
RISE 11:22	SET 23:24

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	22
Mysuru	29	21
Bengaluru	27	18

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be slight cool.Day will be comfortable. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A mostly dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2023
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

‘India has potential World champions, but they will have strong competition’

A former World junior champion and one of only 14 Grandmasters to have crossed the 2800 Elo mark, MVL knows the world of elite chess intimately. In this chat, he talks about a strong new generation ‘bouncing at our doors’, his accomplishments and ambitions, the format of the World Championship and his growing celebrity in France

INTERVIEW

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave

P.K. Ajith Kumar

As a feat, crossing 2800 Elo points in chess shares similarities with scoring 10,000 runs in Tests. Only 14 batters have scaled that peak. Only 14 Grandmasters have touched that magical mark. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave is one of them. The Frenchman, usually referred to by his initials MVL, reached the milestone in 2016, during his triumph at the Sparkassen Chess Meeting in Dortmund. His peak rating, achieved the same year, is 2819 – the seventh-highest in history. A former World No. 2, he won the World blitz championship in 2021. Among his recent significant triumphs is the Tata Steel Chess India rapid title in Kolkata, making his first visit to the country truly memorable. Excerpts from an interview he granted *The Hindu*:

Winning the World blitz championship two years ago in Warsaw must have been one of the highlights of your career. How do you look back at the experience? It was impacted by Covid-19...

It has definitely been one of the highlights of my career. I hope there is more to come. It was an extremely tough tournament. There were a lot of strong players, like Magnus [Carlsen], Jan-Krzysztof Duda, Levon Aronian... The circumstances were also tough because of the Covid, which hit on the final day.

Yes, Hikaru Nakamura tested positive and there was even the possibility of the tournament being stopped...

Yes. I managed to keep focused and was a bit lucky. The level of chess was very strong on the final day. I won the games I needed and it turned out to be enough.

You won the World junior championship in 2009. It is the most prestigious of the several age-group tournaments FIDE organises. Some World junior champions have gone on to become the ultimate World champions, like Anatoly Karpov, Garry Kasparov, Viswanathan Anand...

Yes, it is good company. It was a great moment for me. It is one of the strongest tournaments a youngster can get to play.

But you had already crossed 2700 at that time, hadn’t you?

Yeah, I had crossed 2700. But still it was a tough tournament for me, as there were some strong players in the field. And I won the title only by winning my last-round game. Sergei Zhigalko was actually having a superb tournament; we both won eight games each and didn’t lose any. It was on a tie-breaker that I came first.

> It is always nice when you see new blood coming. Right now we have a strong generation... Now it is a big fight. And we actually have to fight well with them

GETTY IMAGES

The World championship remains the biggest prize in chess, though Carlsen is no longer part of the cycle. He is clearly not happy with the current format. What are your thoughts on it?

I do think that Magnus makes some very strong points about the need for quickening the time control. But I also understand FIDE’s desire to keep the tradition of the World championship.

I would like to see a Candidates tournament with 16 players, instead of eight. Then at the end of some knockouts, you get three players. And let the World champion join at that stage. Yes, maybe a World championship featuring four players.

But still, I must say that this year’s World championship [between Ding Liren and Ian Nepomniachtchi] was very exciting, thrilling. The World champion getting the right to play the title match directly, while his opponent has come through a really tough cycle, is a bit too much of an advantage, I feel. But at the same time, it is part of the tradition.

You may have to get some balance, that is why I spoke of this idea of making the champion join three players that come through the Candidates. Maybe it is not an idea that appeals to everybody. But I feel the way the World championship is conducted will change at some point, maybe in five years, or 10 or 20.

How much did it matter, reaching 2800?

It was a high point in my career. I was on a roll then, putting pressure on everyone and getting some lucky breaks, too. I was a bit sad that I couldn’t keep it up and build on that momentum.

Is the new generation of world chess taking on yours? The Fabulous Four from India – D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi and Nihal Sarin – and then players like Alireza Firouzja, Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Vincent Keymer...

Yes, India has potential World champions, but they will have strong competition. Gukesh had an exceptional Olympiad in Chennai, but Praggnanandhaa has made a good case for himself in the last few months. I wouldn’t discount the others, either.

It is always nice when you see new blood coming. We had Magnus, then Anish Giri, Fabiano Caruana, Wesley So...Then the next generation was perhaps a bit shaky. Right now we have a strong generation of players led by Alireza. And they are bouncing at our doors. Now it is a big fight. And we actually have to fight well with them. When I started my career, I was looking forward to playing the big stars that I grew up watching, but now I am on the other side. It is very exciting.

Anand was the lone Indian you regularly met across the board for so long...

Vishy is amazing, in the sense that he kept that level and he is still keeping it. I am sure that in 20 years from now, I will be far from being able to maintain such a level. He is a living legend, for sure. His chess is flawless. At the top of his game, he could play every move relying fully on intuition and that is also why he managed to keep that level for such a long time. Even right now he plays at an amazing level. And as a person, he is very nice and approachable. I have never had a bad moment with him.

You were part of the inaugural Global Chess League in Dubai. How did you find the new concept?

We had an exciting final and I thought the concept was very nice. It is one of the events that help people get involved and root for a team. There is a future for this event. These teams were made from scratch, but mine, Upgrad Mumba Masters, actually got along well from the start. We had real team spirit. Such tournaments are good for chess.

How is the chess scene now in France?

It is more popular than it was five years ago. More people are recognising me, which is a nice thing. Because of the pandemic – chess can be very much an Internet sport – and the Netflix series, *The Queen’s Gambit*, the interest in chess has grown rapidly.

The World champions you admire?

Bobby Fischer, Alexander Alekhine and Kasparov.

GAME THEORY

Hostile territory: India in South Africa

With Rohit Sharma’s men set to play a two-Test series in South Africa starting later this month, we take a look at the top Indian performers in the Rainbow Nation. South Africa’s pace-friendly pitches have traditionally posed a challenge for touring batters and spinners in the classical format; the seamers have found more joy. The numbers reflect this trend, with only one Indian averaging more than 50 with the bat and no spinner striking at a better rate than 60 balls per wicket. Six seamers, on the other hand, have needed 50 balls or fewer per wicket.

BEST BATTING AVERAGE (minimum: 10 innings)

Player	Tests	Innings	NO	Runs	Average	100s
Virat Kohli	7	14	0	719	51.35	2
Sachin Tendulkar	15	28	3	1161	46.44	5
V.V.S. Laxman	10	18	4	566	40.42	0
Ajinkya Rahane	6	12	1	402	36.54	0
Sourav Ganguly	8	16	2	506	36.14	0
Rahul Dravid	11	22	1	624	29.71	1
M.S. Dhoni	7	13	0	370	28.46	0
Cheteshwar Pujara	10	19	0	535	28.15	1
K.L. Rahul	5	10	0	256	25.60	1
Virender Sehwag	8	15	0	382	25.46	1
Mohammad Azharuddin	7	12	0	280	23.33	1
M. Vijay	6	12	0	278	23.16	0

Virat Kohli

Tendulkar

VVS Laxman

Shardul Thakur

Bhuvneshwar

V.Prasad

BEST BOWLING STRIKE-RATE (minimum: 10 wickets)

Player	Tests	Innings	Wickets	Avg.	Strike-Rate	5-fors
Shardul Thakur	3	6	12	19.08	36.4	1
Bhuvneshwar Kumar	2	4	10	20.30	40.2	0
Venkatesh Prasad	3	6	17	25.00	43.0	2
Mohammed Shami	8	16	35	23.22	44.6	2
S. Sreesanth	6	11	27	28.55	47.5	2
Jasprit Bumrah	6	12	26	24.38	50.0	2
J. Srinath	8	16	43	25.27	51.9	3
Zaheer Khan	8	15	30	35.60	62.7	0
Harbhajan Singh	4	7	18	34.00	63.7	1
Ishant Sharma	7	13	20	40.00	75.5	0
Anil Kumble	12	24	45	32.02	84.7	1
R. Ashwin	6	12	10	50.50	109.6	0

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Muddy waters

A surfer rides the Eisbach wave in the English Garden in Munich earlier this month.

The Eisbach (German for ice brook) is a man-made wave in the river that flows through the park known as the Englischer Garten, or the English garden, in the Bavarian capital.

The wave became legal to ride in 2010, but it’s strictly for experts. The forceful currents and concealed concrete riverbed make surfing it a dangerous proposition.

Munich is considered the birthplace of river surfing — the sport of riding stationary waves, tidal bores or upstream waves in rivers — with documented accounts dating back to the early 1970s.

River surfing conditions are created by a combination of the flow of water and the underlying rock formations: typically, standing waves are caused when a high volume of water is constricted as it flows over a rock. River surfers can face upstream and ‘catch the wave’, experiencing a feeling of travelling over the water while not actually moving. But the ‘rush’ comes with a major risk: that of blunt force trauma because of the close proximity of rocks.

Watch factory employee ends life alleging harassment at workplace

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A maintenance worker of an apartment reportedly took his life in Dasarahalli, on Thursday.

The victim, Govinda, 24, was from Madakasira in Andhra Pradesh. He was working at a watch factory in Peenya during the day and was a maintenance worker for the apartment at night. "He had been with the watch factory for six years. In a recorded video before ending his life, he alleged harassment by senior employees at the factory," the police said.

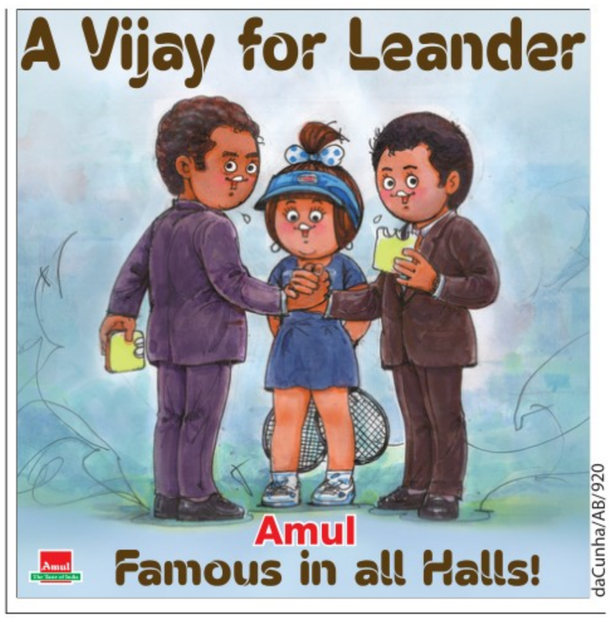
(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

Carol service

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bishop Cotton Girls' School on Friday organised a carol service with a musical, 'The King is Born'. Christmas melodies were rendered by the staff and students of the BCGS choir, and the choreography by KG, junior, middle, and senior students.

Deputy moderator CSI, Rev. K. Reuben Mark was the celebrant at the event. The service concluded with a prayer by Rt. Rev. Dr. Martin C. Borgai, according to a release.



Woman complains of rape, police probe finds otherwise

CCTV camera footage showed that her bruises were sustained when she fell down multiple times while walking in an inebriated state

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 25-year-old techie lodged a complaint with Koramangala police suspecting she was assaulted and probably raped on December 13. However, an investigation has now revealed that she was not assaulted or sexually abused.

The techie had been to a pub in Koramangala on the night of December 12 alone. She walked out of the pub in an inebriated state at around 11.30 p.m. In her complaint, the woman said that she blacked out as soon as she exited the pub and woke up an hour later at around 12.30 a.m. several km away in Adugodi, with several injuries on her body. In her complaint, she said that she had blacked out at the pub and was not aware how she reached the place where she woke up and due to the injuries on her body, she suspected that she was assaulted and sexually abused.

Did not black out

The Koramangala police who registered a rape case, collected CCTV footage from several cameras along the route between the pub and the place where she woke up between 11.30 p.m. and 12.30 a.m. "We found that she was not assaulted by anyone during the time. Like the woman said in her complaint, she did not black out at the pub. It is clearly seen that she walked for nearly an hour in a very inebriated state to the place where she 'woke up' and during this time, she fell down multiple times and got up again and walked until she knocked on a women's paying guest accommodation where she returned to her senses. The injuries on her body were sustained when she fell down multiple times," a senior police official handling the case said.

"Prima facie there was no assault or rape on the woman, but the investigation is still on. We have showed the CCTV footage to the complainant and she has also realised that she walked to the spot herself and no other person seemed to be involved," the officer said.

OPENS TODAY
BANGALORE'S MOST AWAITED JEWELLERY EXHIBITION
Witness an unbelievable Exhibition of Fine Jewellery from Across India
Image: Gajraj Jewellers
ASIA Jewels
Showcase of Fine Jewellery
16-17-18 Dec
Sat - Sun - Mon 10.30 am to 8.00 pm
SHANGRI - LA
BENGALURU
PALACE ROAD, VASANTH NAGAR
ENTRY & VALET PARKING FREE
PRICELESS & MOST BEAUTIFUL JEWELLERY
FROM INDIA'S TOP 30 JEWELLERS
Scan for Venue Directions
FINE GOLD JEWELLERY | DIAMOND JEWELLERY
PLATINUM JEWELLERY| TRADITIONAL JEWELLERY WEDDING JEWELLERY
PRECIOUS STONE JEWELLERY KUNDAN & POLKI JEWELLERY
WEDDING SEASON SPECIAL
TRADITIONAL & LIFESTYLE
NATIONAL SILK EXPO
EXHIBITION CUM SALE
100+ master weavers & best designers from India
16 to 25 Dec.
TIME: 11AM TO 9PM
Venue: Shilpa Kala Mantapa
9th Cross, JP Nagar, 3rd Phase, Bannerghatta Main Road,
Opp. Shopper Stop, Near Jayadeva Hospital, Bangalore
Handwoven Silk & Cotton Saree, Designer,
Ethnic, Western Wear, Fashion Jewellery,
Home Linen & more from across country
M: 9412258826 | ALL DEBIT & CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED | ENTRY FREE
TONI&GUY
HAIRDRESSING
UNISEX FAMILY SALON
Flat 20% OFF
ON
Global FASHION COLOR & HIGHLIGHTS
AVAILABLE ONLY AT SELECTIVE OUTLETS
AECS LAYOUT 9740402716 | BHARTIYA CITY 74067 77000 | BELLANDUR 9606020933 | ELECTRONIC CITY 080-4096 7487 / 7406242999 | FORUM FALCON CITY MALL 8068365591 | JP NAGAR 4TH PHASE 080-4099 9640 / 98440 11055 | NEXUS MALL KORAMANGALA, 080-22067735 / 080-22067736 / 080-7206 7735 | LULU MALL 080-61035666/67 | HARLUR 9164929394 | HSR LAYOUT 8043944436 | HOODI 99165 57070 | INDIRANAGAR 9739060171 | JAYANAGAR 9739647617 KALYAN NAGAR 9844011009 | KORAMANGALA, SONY 080-43758599 | KORAMANGALA, 8TH BLOCK 080-6878 5286 / 70262 28008 | KATHRIGUPPE 96115 80294 | LAVELLE ROAD 7066644644 MAHADEVAPURA 99012 45875 | MANGALURU 082-42953295 | MANGALURU 2 81974 56678 | MANTRI MARATHAHALLI 99867 40606 | SQUARE MALL 080-22667176/08030160066 | MEENAKSHI MALL 7353588999 | MYSURU 9606571295 NEXUS SHANTHINIKETAN MALL 080-25018335 /080-25018336 | NEW BEL ROAD 9538387670 | NEXUS MALL MYSURU 89712 78055 | PHOENIX MARKET CITY 80672 66643 | MERCHANT LOGO PHOENIX MALL OF ASIA 080-6857 2699 | RAGHUVANAHALLI 91080 21355 | VARATHUR 8904264477 | SAHAKAR NAGAR 080-29737373 | SARJAPUR ROAD 6364428899 | SIDDAPURA WHITEFIELD 9591674477 / 080-49754477 | ULSOOR 96869 65233 | VR MALL, BENGALURU 98440 11212 | WHITEFIELD 99007 40000
FOR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES, CALL: 91768 40500 / 99628 54265

The year-end festivities
just got merrier
Avail exciting offers on your
new Volkswagen
MH14KJ5013
MH 14 KB 1670
MH 14 KN 4857
Buy before price hike in January 2024
Benefits on Taigun up to ₹1 91 000^
Benefits on Virtus up to ₹1 67 000^^
Benefits on Tiguan up to ₹4 20 000^^^
The Big Rush
40+ safety features | Turbocharged TSI engines
Acclaimed transmissions : AT, MT & DSG | Class leading infotainment with connectivity
GLOBAL NCAP
(Taigun and Virtus)
SAFER ROADS START WITH YOU
4 EVER CARE
4 year Standard Warranty
4 year Road Side Assistance
3 Free Services
Exchange through
Das WeltAuto.
Certified Pre-Owned
Corporate EDGE Program*
Available across CSD & KPKB
Scan to Know now
volkswagen.co.in
Call 1800 102 0909
Terms and conditions apply. Images are for representation purpose. Features and accessories shown may not be a part of standard equipment and are subject to change without prior notice. The actual car colour may vary. The dark shade on the glass is due to the lighting effect. ^Benefits up to ₹ 1 91 000 on Taigun Highline AT (Cash benefits up to ₹ 100 000, Exchange benefit up to ₹ 40 000, Corporate benefit up to ₹ 20 000, Special benefits ## up to ₹ 31 000). ^^Benefits up to ₹ 1 67 000 on Virtus Highline AT (Cash benefits up to ₹ 100 000, Exchange benefit up to ₹ 20 000, Corporate benefit up to ₹ 17 000, Special benefits ## up to ₹ 30 000). ^^^Benefits up to ₹ 4 20 000 on Tiguan (Cash benefits up to ₹ 75 000, Exchange benefit up to ₹ 75 000, Corporate benefit up to ₹ 1 00 000, 4 Years SVP worth ₹ 85 999, Special benefits ## up to ₹ 84 000). Loyalty bonus is applicable on all variants and for individual customers only. ## Special Benefits at the sole discretion of authorised dealers only. **3 Free services applicable on 1 000 kilometers, 7 500 kilometers and 15 000 kilometers. In service, only labour charge are free. *Exclusive Program for Corporate Customers at select locations. To know more about the scheme please visit our nearest Volkswagen dealership.
Authorised Dealers: Volkswagen Bangalore East-Old Madras Road: 9513942174; Volkswagen Bangalore North: Thanisandra: Mobile: 7032397999, 9100666023; Old Airport Road (Sales Point): Mobile: 9606988828; Volkswagen Bangalore: Hosur Road: Mobile: 8105583597; Volkswagen Whitefield: B. Narayanapura: Mobile: 9900010727, 9900021210; Volkswagen Palace Cross: Mobile: 9686601249; Volkswagen Bangalore South (JP Nagar): Mobile: 9952220000 ; Volkswagen Bangalore North: Hebbal: Mobile: 7032397999, 9100995774; Volkswagen Bangalore Central: Richmond Road: Mobile: 7032397999, 9100995753; Volkswagen Palace Cross: Victoria Road (DWA): Mobile: 9900035187; Rajajinagar (Sales Point): Mobile: 9900049174; Hesaraghatta (Sales Point): Mobile: 9900049174; Volkswagen Tumkur: Sira Main Rd: Mobile: 7032397999, 9100919214; Volkswagen Hubli: (0836) 2220000, 7760984531; Volkswagen Belgaum: (0831) 2477777, 9900022688, 9900022691; Volkswagen Palace cross: Mysore Road: 9900053496; Volkswagen Mangalore: (0824) 2433430, 2433530, 7829142030; Volkswagen Mysore: 9611586240; Volkswagen City Center (Lalbagh Road): 9100995753; Volkswagen City Store Bangalore North (Yelehanka): 9281147546; Volkswagen Hassan: 9611586225; Volkswagen Shivamogga: 9606024733.
DWA Outlet: Volkswagen Palace Cross - 9686601249, 9900064401.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

HOUSING

Suburbia calling

Ideas of the perfect house are evolving, with people preferring community, space, and environment over urban chaos

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Mohit Jajoo

A rise in the demand for homes in rural and suburban areas is rapidly growing. Earlier, people's perspective on living in big cities was highly encouraged. However, post-pandemic, changing work dynamics and better opportunities in open spaces have reshaped the way people perceive their living arrangements. The demand for housing in suburban and rural areas increased, causing significant changes in local market dynamics, mobility patterns, and locational preferences.

In India, there is an excessive demand for affordable housing, a rental market, and an increase in the supply of luxury property, particularly in urban areas. Despite the increase, people face a significant housing shortage because the costs of homes are high relative to their salaries.

During the pandemic, 60% of the businesses were obliged to adjust, and many employees transitioned to remote work. As the lines blurred between office and home, rural and suburban locations offered more space, cleaner air, and serene settings.

According to the World Bank, 43% of Indians have shifted their priorities from the bustling crowd to the rising desire for spacious and peaceful environments.

The return of employees to the office after the pandemic-induced work-from-home (WFH) period has indeed prompted some individuals to consider relocating back to urban areas. However, it's important to note that the post-pandemic landscape is marked by a hybrid work model, where many employers continue to offer flexibility, allowing employees to split their time between office and remote work. This has resulted in a diverse range of housing preferences.

Reverse exodus

While some employees have returned to urban areas due to office requirements, others are choosing to stay in suburban, rural, or smaller town locations because they have grown accustomed to the improved quality of life, reduced commuting times, and more affordable housing.

In certain cases, individuals who had invested in second homes in rural or suburban areas during the WFH period may choose to rent out these properties. This can provide additional income. Those who have chosen to return to cities may look to rent homes in urban areas to accommodate their changing work patterns.

Larger spaces

Suburban and rural areas offer wide spaces. Key highlights of such areas are larger backyards, lush greenery, and cleaner air. These areas have developed into havens of safety and peace in the face of lockdowns and social distancing. Homebuyers prioritise leading a healthy lifestyle and having a connection with nature.

Popular locations

Pune, renowned for being an educational and IT powerhouse, has seen an increase in demand for homes outside the city. Areas such as Hinjewadi, Wagholi, and Talegaon, are economical alternatives.

Those who had invested in second homes in rural or suburban areas during the WFH period are looking at ways to generate an additional income by renting out their properties

Similar trends have been observed in the town of Dehradun, tucked in the foothills of the Himalayas. People from Delhi and the NCR (National Capital Region) have been drawn to Dehradun for its scenic beauty and slower pace of life.

While the price benefits and incentives may vary across regions, here are a few other locations in India that have experienced increased demand and offer unique advantages:

Goa

Due to its coastal location, laid-back lifestyle, and relatively lower property prices compared to metropolitan cities, Goa has seen a surge in interest.

Property prices here are often more affordable than in major urban centres. The State also offers a lower cost of living, which is attractive for retirees as well as for people working from remote locations.

Goa's government has introduced various schemes to promote the real estate sector, including subsidies and tax incentives for homebuyers and developers.

Coimbatore

It has become a hotspot for real estate investment because of its growing IT sector, educational institutions, and pleasant climate. Property prices are competitive, making it an appealing option for those looking to invest in a growing city. The Tamil Nadu government has introduced policies to facilitate property transactions, reducing paperwork and streamlining the process.

Jaipur

It is witnessing an upswing in demand due to its rich cultural heritage, growing business opportunities, and lower property costs compared to major metropolitan areas.

Property prices are relatively lower, allowing buyers to get more space for their investment. The Rajasthan government offers various incentives, including subsidies to promote real estate development.

Coorg

Known for its coffee plantations and scenic beauty, Coorg has become popular for vacation homes and eco-friendly living. While the land is pricier than some other rural areas, it offers a unique living experience and potential for rental income. The Karnataka government is likely to provide incentives for sustainable and eco-friendly construction, aligning with the hill station's natural beauty.

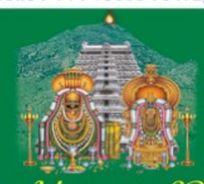
The writer is CEO and Director, Shubhashish Homes.

REAL ESTATE

SELLING

GENERAL

RADHA'S REALTY
No. 34F, Polur Road, Tiruvannamalai - 606 601.
Mobile : +91 95008 76492, 94431 26492



Pick Your Home or Plots in the Spiritual abode of Arunachalam!

Anugraha Garden
(Farm Land)
ADIANNAMALAI
(Near to Proposed Ring Road)
PLOTS AVAILABLE

Thendral Homes
(DTCP APPROVAL)
VENGIKKAL
Thendral Nagar, 1st North Street, Vengikkal, TIRUVANNAMALAI.
PLOTS & HOUSE AVAILABLE

Kosalai
ADIANNAMALAI PANCHAYAT
Girivalam Path
PLOTS AVAILABLE

RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

FOR SALE, 15 Units Rental Building, 3L rent monthly, A Katha, in Bommanahalli, 2.8 Cr negotiable, moving abroad sale, interested persons call 7287039697

FARMHOUSE / LAND /RESORTS

BEACH FRONT property on ECR. 4.3 acres near Pondicherry toll gate. Clear title. Direct from owner. Contact 904 395 9769

RESIDENTIAL LAND

PLOT FOR Sale 60x40, Gated community, Anekal, Rs. 56 Lakhs, Contact: 9739024512

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

RENTAL

FARMHOUSE / LAND / RESORTS

GOA ROYAL Goan Beach Club 3 Bed Room Available. Call: 99403 14887

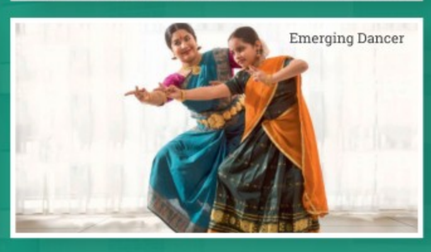
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/060923/006244

TUMKUR ROAD,
NEAR HIMALAYA FACTORY

www.dsmaxproperties.com

DR. K V SATISH, CHAIRMAN

DS MAX
ISO 9001:2015 COMPANY



DS-MAX SKYSANJEEVINI
You're not just close to everything;
you're close to shaping your children's bright future...

2 & 3 BHK HOMES | G+9 FLOORS | UNITS - 207

₹ 45.81 - 69.82 Lakhs*

8880 465 465

2, 3 & 4-BHK APARTMENTS FOR SALE IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/150223/005721
MYSORE ROAD
NR. R R DENTAL COLLEGE
₹ 49.63 - 79.66 Lakhs*
8088 445 445

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/201201/003733
ELECTRONIC CITY
HOSA ROAD JUNCTION
₹ 50.00 - 54.45 Lakhs*
9164 045 000

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/280222/004739
CHANDAPURA
10 MINS. BOMMASANDRA METRO
₹ 37.60 - 49.60 Lakhs*
8880 013 310

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/446/PR/210312/004002
K R PURAM
NEAR GARDEN CITY UNIV.
₹ 51.80 - 86.24 Lakhs*
8880 438 000

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/220223/005748
THANISANDRA
5 MINS. FROM KNSIT
₹ 58.17 L - 1.02 CR.*
8880 461 461

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/151223/006489
UTTARAHALLI
BSK 5TH STAGE, NR. NPS
₹ 74.62 L - 1.52 CR.*
8050 161 222

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/446/PR/110722/005059
BEGUR
10 MINS. TO SILK BOARD
₹ 53.00 - 58.10 Lakhs*
8880 472 472

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/290122/004660
SARJAPURA
SARJAPUR - ATTIBELE ROAD
₹ 38.72 - 49.80 Lakhs*
9164 122 000

DODDAGUBBI
NEAR HENNUR DECATHLON
₹ 53.30 - 86.90 Lakhs*
8880 003 003

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/181122/002151
YELAHANKA
NEAR KOGILU CROSS
₹ 61.74 - 89.64 Lakhs*
8880 758 758

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/446/PR/190301/002464
WHITEFIELD
NEAR HOPE FARM METRO STN.
₹ 44.00 - 73.50 Lakhs*
8088 773 773

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/190328/002502
KENGERI
NEAR HOYSALA CIRCLE
₹ 79.04 Lakhs*
8880 759 759

*T & C Apply

Disclaimer: Information provided in this advertisement is for reference only, and all data is sourced internally. The images, illustrations, and artist's impressions used in this advertisement are for representational purposes only. The prices mentioned are indicative and base prices. Any offers, discounts, or incentives mentioned in this advertisement are subject to specific terms and conditions. All taxes, registration charges, stamp duty, and any other statutory payments are applicable as per government regulations. All directions, locations, and landmarks are approximate. Please use reliable resources for accurate travel times. Mentioning a specific product, process, or service does not imply endorsement. Please contact our Sales Team for detailed information about specific projects, pricing, availability, and other inquiries. DS-MAX Properties ensures that all its projects comply with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) and its regulations. Visit : www.rera.karnataka.gov.in

BG-BGE

RERA NO : PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/071123/006380

ABHEE
Celestial City

CALL : 73532 21122

A STARDUST SYMPHONY OF LUXURY LIVING.

7 mins drive from
WIPRO SEZ (Sarjapura Road)

10 mins drive from
ECOSPACE (ORR)

10 mins drive from
ITPL(whitefield)

THE RIGHT THING. PRE-LAUNCH AT GUNJUR, SARJAPURA-WHITEFIELD MAIN ROAD.
(ADJACENT TO GREENWOOD HIGH SCHOOL)

MARKET PRICE	ABHEE LAUNCH PRICE	ABHEE PRE-LAUNCH OFFER	ULTRA LUXURY 2 & 3BHK APTS.
₹ ~~12,000~~/SQFT* (BASIC)	₹ ~~8,299~~/SQFT* (BASIC)	₹ 7,799/SQFT* (BASIC)	@ ₹ 1.26 CR ONWARDS*

ABHEE
VENTURES PRIVATE LIMITED
VISION OF FUTURE

NEXPLACE INFRASTRUCTURE

2 Basement
27 floors
30+ Amenities
397 Luxury Apts.

Upcoming Infrastructure
Namma Metro,
PRR,STRR

Abhee Celestial city
LOCATION MAP

Abhee Ventures
WEBSITE

CREDAI BANGALORE

marketing@abheeventures.com | www.abheeventures.com

BG-BGE

Wild elephants damage Arjuna's burial ground in Sakleshpur taluk

Arjuna, who used to be the star attraction of Mysuru Dasara processions, died during an elephant capture operation at Yeslur on December 4

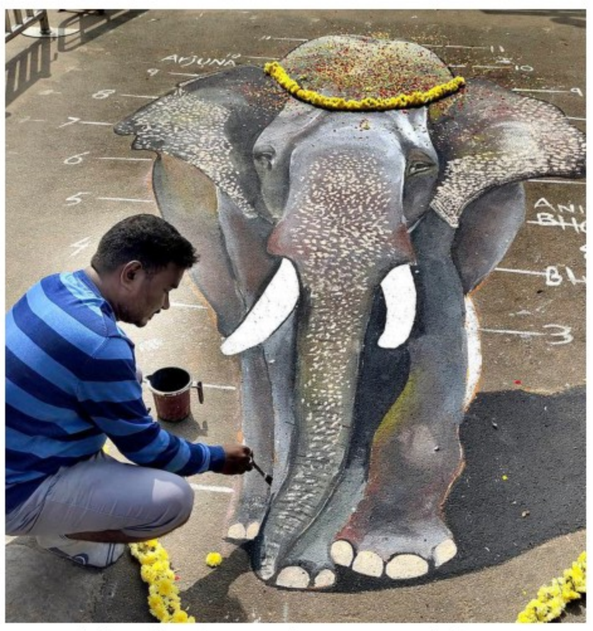
The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA/MYSURU

A group of wild elephants entered the Dabbalikatte forest area in the Yeslur range of forests in Sakleshpur on Thursday night and damaged the burial ground of Arjuna, the former Dasara elephant who had died in a fight with a wild tusker. They also rummaged through coffee estates nearby.

Arjuna, the tamed tusker who was a star attraction in several Mysuru Dasara processions, died during an elephant capture operation in the Yeslur range of forest on December 4. The elephant succumbed to the injuries it suffered during the fight. The next day, the carcass was buried with the State guard of honour at the Dabbalikatte plantation of the Forest Department.

A herd of elephants roamed the plantation and damaged the temporary fencing put up around the burial ground, according to the locals. Senior officers of the Forest Department also visited the place on Friday.

Meanwhile, the staff of the Forest Department and locals offered prayers at the burial ground on Friday, to mark the 11th day of Arjuna's death.



Artist Anil Bhogashetty's 3D art tribute to Dasara elephant Arjuna, outside the palace in Mysuru. M.A. SRIRAM

Artistic tribute

At Mysuru, bemoaning the tragic death of Arjuna, an artist from Mysuru created a 3D artwork near the Balarama Gate of the Mysuru palace to pay his tribute to the legendary elephant, who carried the golden howdah eight times in a row.

Anil Bhogashetty, a former CAVA student from Mysuru, decided to create the tall tusker in 3D art. "Arjuna was among the popular jumbos and there was a fond relationship with the city since the elephant was engaged as the Nishane elephant even after he was rested from the tasks of carrying the howdah. As an artist, I used to craft Dasara tableaux and therefore remember seeing the elephant and admiring its prowess," said Mr. Bhogashetty, who had created wildlife 3D artworks for the Mysuru zoo and Bandipur reserve. The 15-feet tall artwork can last for about 15-20 days, he added.

The artist started to work on the artwork on Thursday and finished it after a break around 11.30 a.m. on Friday.

Uncertainty looms over annual pharmacy examination

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

It has been a little over three months now since the classes for first year Diploma in Pharmacy (D. Pharma) students were completed, and students were given study holidays for their annual examinations. For reasons not completely clear, the examinations, which were supposed to take place by the end of October or the beginning of November, have been postponed multiple times now, leaving the students worried.

D.Pharma is a two-year course which provides students the required qualification for practicing the profession of pharmacy, under the Pharmacy Act, 1948. In Karnataka, the exams are conducted by Karnataka State Pharmacy Council (KSPC), a statutory body constituted under the Act. "Technically, the syllabus for the first year of the course is supposed to be completed in eight to nine months and then the exams should be over within a year. However, for us, it has been well over one year now since classes began and there is still no confirmation about exams. They have said that it will take place in January, but even that is a tentative timetable," said a student from Vivekananda College of Pharmacy in Rajajinagar.

Students worried

The students of the course are concerned that this uncertainty could also alter their plans for the future. "If the exams keep getting postponed, then it will take me around three years to finish the course and that was not the timeline I had in mind when I took it up. I have heard that the exam, which is now tentatively scheduled for January 2, will also be postponed," said a student from Acharya and BM Reddy College of Pharmacy in Soladevanahalli. He added, "We have tried to contact the KSPC multiple times, but they have not responded. Of late, the calls are not even connecting. We do not know whom to approach."

When *The Hindu* contacted officials from KSPC, they mentioned that financial constraints and administrative hurdles had delayed the examinations. "We did not have the budget to conduct the exams all this while. The transfer of the previous member secretary was also one of the reasons. Now, a new member secretary has taken charge, and the exams will surely take place in January," said an official, who did not want to be named.

Old Hubballi violence: 35 arrested get relief from SC

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

A file photo of the police conducting a route march in the localities of Old Hubballi after it witnessed violence last year.

Among the arrested in connection with the Old Hubballi violence case reported in 2022, 35 persons received relief on Friday with the Supreme Court allowing the Special Leave Petitions (criminal) pertaining to their bail. The SC of India Bench comprising of Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra on Friday conducted hearing on the various SLPs and disposed them of.

The Bench said it is inclined to allow the petitions taking into consideration that the other co-accused with similar allegations have already been granted bail and the petitioners are directed to be released on bail in connection with crime 63 dated 16.04.2022 of Old Hubballi Police station, Karnataka, to the satisfaction of the trial court.

Old Hubballi witnessed violence on April 16, 2022, during a protest over a derogatory post on WhatsApp by a youth which resulted in the arrest of close to 150 persons, presently lodged in different jails. While a few managed to get bail, majority are still in prison. The plea for their release by their family members had resulted in Dy. CM D.K. Shivakumar writing to the Home Minister on the issue, who sought details on the case, subsequently. The development had led to BJP accusing the Congress of appeasement politics.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby notified that my client **R Ramadevi** W/o late R S Rao recently while shifting her House has lost the Original Katha Certificate No. BDA/RO (S)/BSK/6-8/2002 dated 22-11-2002 issued by BDA in the name of R S Rao pertaining to Site No.622, Banashankari, 6th Stage, 8th Block, Bangalore. In this regard she has filed an online Police complaint under Sl.No.847872/2023 on 14/12/2023, if anybody found the said original document kindly contact the undersigned or handover the same to nearest police station.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 15-12-2023

Sd/-
CHANDAR K VITTAL, Advocate,
130, 8th Main Road, AGS Layout,
Arehalli, Bengaluru-560061.
Contact: 7259495959

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sri. A. Sivadasan and two others are the present owners of the Apartment bearing No. H-201, on the Second Floor of the Building known as "SRK SILICANA", constructed on Sy. No. 95/1 & 96/1, situated at Doddathogur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, measuring 1640 Sq. Ft., Super Built Up-Area & 1207.31 Sq. Ft., Undivided Share, the had acquired the said property from its previous owner Smt. Aparna Kapur, under a Registered Sale Deed Document No.BGR-1-07005/2015-16, of Book-1, is stored in CD No.BGRD274, Registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Begur, Bangalore District. The present owners Sri A. Sivadasan and two others have lost/misplaced the original of the Agreement for Construction & Agreement for Sale at the above address. If any person finds the above said Original Documents kindly return it to the below signed person, **within Ten days from the date of this publication**.

Sd/- (H.G. Shobharani)
Advocate, British Barristers
No. 26, IAS Colony, 5 th Cross, 16 th Main
B.T.M. Layout, II stage, Bangalore-76
Mob. 98450 88427

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Project Division, Begur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru - 560068.

No: BBMP/EE/BPD/Tend-03/2023-24 **Date: 15-12-2023**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, (Project Division) Bommanahalli Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru invites bids for the following Services from reputed Caterers for the INDIRA CANTEEN in Bommanahalli Zone, Mahadevapura Zone & R.R. Nagara Zone of BBMP Limits.

Sl. No.	Name of the Service	Estimate Amount (Rs. in Crore)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Providing Catering Services for INDIRA CANTEEN in Bommanahalli Zone, Mahadevapura Zone & R.R. Nagara Zone of BBMP Limits.	31.13	31,13,280.00

Calendar of Events: 1) The tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 19-12-2023. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **28-12-2023 at 3.00 PM. 3)** Last Date for Submission of Tender Document is **09-01-2024 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **10-01-2024 at 11.00 AM if possible or next working day. 5)** Opening of Financial Bid: **Will be intimated to the Technically Qualified Bidders.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Bommanahalli Project Division, BBMP.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website : www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 0175-2921547, 96461-07129, 96461-18893)

Tender Enquiry No. (RfS No): 03/CE/GNDTP/2023-24 **Dated:08.12.2023**

Office of CE/GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites bids for Setting up of 100 MW solar power plant in the ash dyke area of GNDTP, Bathinda, along with the associated transmission line for power evacuation to 220 KV GNDTP substation, Bathinda on BOO basis for providing solar power to PSPCL for 25 years, through tariff based competitive e-bidding process followed by e-reverse auction. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to **https://www.bharat-electronictender.com/** from 09.12.2023 from 10:00 AM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://www.bharat-electronictender.com/** only.

GHTP - 101/23 **76155/12/2509/2023/30689**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮರಳು ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಮಿತಿ, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಗಭೂಇ/ಉನಿಮಂ/ಮರಳು/ಅ.ಟೆಂಡರ್-01/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.12.2023

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಕರಾವಳಿ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ **Non-CRZ** ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಮರಳು ತೆಗೆಯುವುದನ್ನು ತಹಬಂದಿಗೆ ತರುವುದು ಅತ್ಯಾವಶ್ಯವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದ್ದ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ಕ್ಯಾಮೆರಾ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ, ಸ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ಬಜಾರ್ ಆಪ್ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮರು ಜಾಲನೆಗೊಳಿಸಲು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30-08-2023** ಹಾಗೂ **26-09-2023** ರಂದು ಜರುಗಿದ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ 07 ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಣಯಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, Sand app Revamping & Maintenances of existing Sand Bazaar app and ILMS/OSOG Integration ಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿಯು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ.
(1) ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿ ನಮೂನೆ, ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16-12-2023 ರಿಂದ 30-12-2023 ಸಂಜೆ 5:30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (2) ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30-12-2023 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5:30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (3) ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01-01-2024 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** (4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಪಡಿಸುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04-01-2024 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. (5) ಪ್ರಿ-ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27-12-2023 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ **e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. ನಲ್ಲಿ on-line** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹರಾಗಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಧಿಸಿರುವ ಪೂರ್ವ ಅರ್ಹತಾ ಷರತ್ತು / ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು/ ಅಂಶಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಖಾತರಿಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರಿಂದ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಆಸಕ್ತರು ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು ರವರನ್ನು ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಅಥವಾ **ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0824-2429932** ರ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

DIPR/ADM/KSMCA/896/23-24 dt. 15.12.23

ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮರಳು ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಮಿತಿ, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Owned by the Government of Karnataka)
Office of the Superintending Engineer (Ele), O & M Circle, GESCOM
Koppal-583231. Tel No: 08539-200023/33 Email: seemrbgescom@gmail.com
Register Office, GESCOM, Main Road, Kalaburagi-585102. Website: gescom.in
CIN: U4010KA2002SGC030436

No: SEE/O&M/EEE(O)/AEE(O)/KPL/TF-68/2023-24/4288 **Date:14.12.2023**

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-procurement only)

The Superintending Engineer Ele., O&M Circle GESCOM, Koppal invites tender in E-procurement Mode only for providing services of Shift duties and Minor maintenance works for the 33KV sub-stations for one year existing in C&M Division, Koppal.

Sl. No	Name of O&M Division	Name of C&M Division	Name of the Taluk	Name of the33/11kV substation	No of Shift Operators per substation to be provided	No Shift Helpers per substation to be provided	Amount put to Tender per sub-stationRs. in lakhs.	Per sub-station EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Koppal	Koppal	Yelburga	Bandi	4	4	21.10 L	50,000.00
2	Gangavathi	Koppal	Kushtagi	Chaligera	4	4	21.10 L	50,000.00
3	Koppal	Koppal	Yelburga	H V Kunta	1	4	12.64 L	31,700.00
4	Koppal	Koppal	Koppal	Kampasagara	4	4	21.10 L	50,000.00
5	Koppal	Koppal	Kukanoor	Kukanoor	1	4	12.64 L	31,700.00
6	Koppal	Koppal	Koppal	Kukanpalli	4	4	21.10 L	50,000.00

For more details log on the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after date: **19.12.2023**

Last date of submission of bid is **03.01.2024 at 04:00PM.** For any clarification and details please contact office of the undersigned during officer hours Ph: 08539-200023/200033 or 9483043701 on all working days. E-Procurement Help-Desk Contact No:080-22371090/080-22340948.

DIPR/Koppal/281/KSMCA/2023-24

Sd/-Superintending Engineer, Ele.
O&M Circle, GESCOM, Koppal.

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)
Expression of Interest (EoI)-cum- Request for proposal (RFP)

Name of Project:Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)
Loan No./Credit No.9066-IN
Grant No:
Date: December 16, 2023

The Director (Projects), H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh India invites the Expression of Interest (EoI)-cum-Request for proposal (RFP) from national suppliers for the consultancy services as detailed in the table below:-

Sr. No.	Description of Procurement	Date of availability of REoI –cum- RFP on HPRIDCL web site	Last date/Time for submission of Proposals/ Opening of proposals
1.	Expression of Interest (EoI)-cum-Request for proposal (RFP) Notice for Selection of Environmental Specialist for World Bank funded Himachal Pradesh State Road Transformation Project (HPSRTP).	December 16 , 2023	January 05, 2024 at 15:00/ 15:30 hours (IST)

Expression of Interest (EoI)-cum- Request for proposal (RFP) will be available on the official web site of HPRIDC under link http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html .
Note: - Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Expression of Interest (EoI)-cum- Request for proposal (RFP) shall be available to all interesting firms on the same web site link.

Executive Director -cum-SE (P&D)
State Roads Project, HPRIDC
Nirman Bhawan, Shimla-171002

HP / 0980/2023-2024

Phone No. : (0663) - 2412135 ; E-mail ID - eephdsbp@gmail.com
www.watcoodisha.in
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
WATER CORPORATION OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, WATCO DIVISION, SAMBALPUR
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. GMWATCOSBP-18/2023-24 Dt.14.12.2023

1.	Name of the work	: 1 nos Work
2.	Type of Bid	: Two Bid System
3.	Estimated Cost	: Rs.100.40 Lakh
4.	Period of Completion	: 3 (Three) Calendar Months
5.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 AM of dt.21.12.2023 to 5.00 PM of 06.01.2024
6.	Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 5.00 PM of 06.01.2024
7.	Date & Time of opening of Technical bids	: At 11.30 AM of 08.01.2024
8.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: General Manager, WATCO Division, Sambalpur, Brooks' Hill, Near Stadium, At/Po - Motijharan, Dist. - Sambalpur - 768001.

Further details can be seen from the web site : http://tenders.ori.nic.in or www.tendersorissa.gov.in

C-2129 :
General Manager, WATCO Division, Sambalpur.
OIPR-13247/11/0020/2324

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ-562114.
ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 27931759, ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 27931221
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_hosakote@yahoo.com, ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.hosakotecity.mrc.gov.in
ನಂ.ನಸಹೊ/ಆ.ತಾ/ಫವನಿ/ಪಿ.ಆರ್/ಟೆಂಡರ್-1/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14-12-2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ, ಸ್ವಚ್ಛಭಾರತ್ ಮಿಷನ್-01, 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಮುಕ್ತ ನಿಧಿ-2022-23, 2023-24 ರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು / ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ - ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ
01	DMA/2023-24/SE1499	87.36	1,75,000/-
02	DMA/2023-24/SE1502	83.79	1,68,000/-
03	DMA/2023-24/IND0953	17.20	35,000/-
04	DMA/2023-24/IND0954	5.25	13,500/-
05	DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT9900	5.00	12,500/-
06	DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT9909	30.00	60,000/-

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **29-12-2023 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **01-01-2024 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **03-01-2024 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** 5) ಹಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಿಳಿಯುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ

ಸಹಿ/-
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ

DIPR/CP/2570/SPAN/2023-24

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಉಡುಪಿ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕೃಉಮಾಸ(ಉಡುಪಿ)/1306 /2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.12.2023

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಇವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯಿದೆ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧವಾಗಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ, ಸತೋಲೆಗಳಂತೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಡಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಹಾಗು Standard Tender Document KW-4 Clause 3 (with latest amendments)ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹರಿರುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊಬಲಗು ರೂ. ಶೇಕಡ 1.50ರಂತೆ ಅಥವಾ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ (ಇ ಪೇಮೆಂಟ್)	ಕೆಲಸ ಪೂರೈಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಅವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತು ಪಡಿಸಿ)	ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ	ಇ ಪ್ರೋಸಿಂಗ ಫೀ (ಇ ಪೇಮೆಂಟ್)
1	ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಉಡುಪಿ 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಮೆಂಟ್ ಕಾಂಕ್ರೀಟ್ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್)	100,21,143.00	2,00,000.00	03 ತಿಂಗಳು	ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯು-4 ಕ್ಲಾಸ್-3ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹರಿರುವ & ಲೋ.ಇಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು	ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಂತೆ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ

ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 18.12.2023 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ: 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ
ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ:28.12.2023 ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 4.30 ಸಂಜೆ
ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ :29-12-2023 ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 4.30 ಸಂಜೆ
ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ :30-12-2023 ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 11.00 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ

Tender documents may be downloaded from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home under login for Contractors

ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ : ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಉಡುಪಿ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಪತ್ರ ವ್ಯವಹಾರದ ವಿಳಾಸ : ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಉಡುಪಿ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಸಹಿ/- (ಎಂ. ಗಾಯತ್ರಿ)
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಉಡುಪಿ

ಸಹಿ/-(ಮಮತಾ ದೇವಿ .ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.)
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಉಡುಪಿ

Government of Karnataka
GULBARGA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, KALABURAGI
(Autonomous Institution of Govt. of Karnataka)
E-mail:directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Phone No 08472-260252

No. GIMS/KLB/TENDER/CR-178/2022-23/Call-2/2269 Date: 14/12/2023

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement) ::

Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi invites tender for eligible bidders in bid system (Techno-commercial Bid & Financial Bid) in e-procurement 2.0 mode for the "Comprehensive Maintanance Contract for Split Air Conditioners" at Gims, Kalaburagi. Details are available in the site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last date and time for upload of e-tender in E-procurement platform as follows.
1) Commencement of download of e-Tender : Form from website-https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in No. GIMS/KLB/TENDER/CR-178/2022-23/Call-2 Date: 13/12/2023 DME/2023-24/SE0133, 2) Last Date for Queries : **19.12.2023 at 5:00pm**, 3) Pre-bid Meeting : **20.12.2023 at 11:30am** 4) Last Date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement plat

It is surprising ICAI wants to stifle the career of a student with extra acumen, says HC

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pointing out that ICAI wanted to jeopardise the career of a student on the score that it had not properly accorded permission or permission was not properly sought by the student, the court declined to accept the decision

It would not be consistent with the constitutional status of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for it to impose a penalty of delaying enrolment by two years on a student who had studied and completed multiple courses while pursuing CA Articleship by diligently taking prior permissions from the institute, said the High Court of Karnataka.

"It is rather surprising that the ICAI wants to stifle the career of a student, who has pursued multiple courses and gained such acumen to practice as a Chartered Accountant (CA). It would be helpful to the ICAI, and society, if a student has extra acumen, than the chartered accountantship alone," the Court observed.

"I deem it appropriate to *bend the arc of justice* for a student and direct grant of membership of the Institute to her without brooking any further delay," Justice M. Nagaprasanna said in his order of allowing a petition filed by 23-year-old Nikkitha K.J of Bengaluru.

Case background

The petitioner, after completing CA Intermediate, Company Secretaries (CS) Executive and Certified Management Accountant (CMA) Intermediate courses by June 2018, commenced CA Articleship. She had simultaneously joined a B.Com degree programme in an evening college by taking prior permission from the ICAI.

After completion of B.Com course, she had in 2020 got permission from ICAI to pursue CMA Final along with the Articleship. Post completion of the CMA Final in December 2020, she got permission from ICAI in March 2021 to pursue CS Professional, which she completed in July 2021.

Later, she qualified in the CA Finals and applied for enrolment as CA in February 2023. For the surprise and shock of the petitioner, the ICAI rejected her application stating that she had 'pursued multiple courses in violation of the Regulation 65 of the CA Regulations and imposed a fine of ₹10,000 and delayed her enrolment as CA by two years as per the Regulation".

However, the HC found fault with ICAI's conduct by pointing out that the petitioner had "diligently sought and secured permissions for every extra course and now the ICAI wants to tinker with the permission granted by itself."

Jeopardising career

Pointing out that "the mighty ICAI now wants to jeopardise the career of a student on the score that it had not properly accorded permission or permission was not properly sought by the student," the court declined to accept the decision of the ICAI.

"Such acts of the ICAI against a student who has only studied and done nothing else, that too after seeking prior permission would not behove the ICAI to be a State under Article 12 of the Constitution of India," the High Court observed while directing ICAI to consider her for enrolment within four weeks.

Child sex ratio: Data finds sharp decline in Bengaluru Urban in 2022

Before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019, the average sex ratio in the State stood at 934; it increased to 947 in 2020 and 2021

This decline gains significance in the light of the recent unearthing of a sex determination racket across Bengaluru, Mandya, and Mysuru districts. FILE PHOTO

Year-wise highest, lowest child sex ratio as per CRS data

2019	2020	2021	2022
State average: 934	State average: 947	State average: 947	State average: 929
Highest in Bengaluru Urban (including BBMP) 1,715	Highest in Bengaluru Urban (including BBMP) 1,284	Highest in Bengaluru Urban (including BBMP) 1,269	Highest in Chamarajanagar: 974
Lowest in Bidar: 886	Lowest in Mandya: 884	Lowest in Mandya: 871	Lowest in Chickballapur: 868

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Although Chickballapur has recorded the lowest child sex ratio at birth in 2022 at 868 (for every 1,000 males as per CRS data), it is Bengaluru Urban (including BBMP) which has seen the steepest decline of 25.2% last year in comparison to 2021. The sex ratio in this district has dropped from 1,269 in 2021 to 949 in 2022.

Overall, Karnataka has recorded a decline in the child sex ratio at birth – from 947 in 2021 to 929 in 2022. As many as 22 districts have recorded a decline in sex ratio of which at least seven districts have recorded more than 4% drop in the same period, according to Karnataka's Civil Registration System (CRS) data. While the sex ratio is higher than the State average of 929 in 16 districts, what is alarming is that it is less than 900 in five districts – Chickballapur (868), Mandya (877), Bagalkote (886), Kalaburagi (888) and Bidar (898).

Before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019, the average sex ratio in the State stood at 934 while it increased to 947 in 2020 and 2021.

In 2019, while Bengaluru Urban (including BBMP) had recorded the highest sex ratio at 1,715, Bidar had recorded the lowest sex ratio at 886 followed by Bagalkot at 897. In 2020, Bengaluru Urban (including BBMP) continued to record the highest sex ratio at 1,284 while Mandya recorded the lowest at 884. Mysuru, which saw a rise from 923 in 2019 to 930 in 2020 has sustained the trend till 2022.

This data gains significance in the light of the recent unearthing of a sex determination racket across Bengaluru, Mandya, and Mysuru districts. The Bengaluru police recently arrested a doctor and his lab technician who allegedly performed around 900 illegal abortions in the last three years. Following this, the State government has ordered a CID probe and has announced the setting up of a task force to check female foeticide

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said the steep decline in sex ratio in Bengaluru Urban could be because this district has a lot of migratory and floating population. "However, we are conscious that a part of the decline could be on account of female foeticide too and appropriate measures are being put in place to check this," he said.

Nuclear families

C.M. Lakshmana, professor at Population Research Centre in the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), attributed the steep decline in the ratio in Bengaluru Urban to increasing adoption of a nuclear family concept. "This is an emerging trend in urban areas and most families would prefer to have a male child to a female as the only child. This trend in urban areas needs further investigation by demographers and population scientists," he said.

Pointing out that studies have shown rampant 'son preference' in society, Prof. Lakshmana, however, said if sex ratio at birth is above 1,000 it needs to be investigated. "CRS data can have variations and should be taken only as an indicator as it is based on birth registrations," he said.

K.S. Vimala, State vice-president, Janawadi Mahila Sangathane, said easy accessibility of scanning centres in urban areas could be a reason for the decline in Bengaluru Urban. "The highest number of scanning centres are in Bengaluru making female foeticide easy for those who prefer a male child to a female," she said.

Other factors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A study published in July in the International Journal of Science and Research (IJSR) by Suresh L. Chitragar from MES's Arts and Commerce College, Mudalgi in Belagavi revealed the impact of underlying socio-economic and cultural factors on the sex ratio. It discloses an imbalanced ratio in Karnataka, with a continuous decline from 1901 to 2011, except for marginal improvements, leading to significant shortage of females in urban and rural areas.

"The sex ratio in Karnataka improved from 960 in 1991 to 973 in 2011. The change in sex ratio in individual districts, however, is not uniform, and there is significant regional variation. Female literacy has a positive bearing on the ratio, and states with higher literacy rate show faster movement towards gender parity. Therefore, the higher the female literacy rate, greater the improvement in the sex ratio for every percent increase in female literacy," the study found.

Blood donation drive conducted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) of 1 Karnataka Girls Battalion, Jyoti Nivas College (Autonomous) and the Rotaract Club of JNC, in collaboration with Lions Blood Bank and NIMHANS Blood Bank, organised a blood donation drive on Thursday on the college premises in Koramangala.

As many as 300 individuals registered for the drive and 126 units of blood were collected, the college said in a release.

Cake Show

The Chandrayaan 3 Sugar Sculpture is among the cakes of all shapes and sizes on display at the 49th Annual Cake Show at St. Joseph Indian High School grounds, ahead of Christmas and New Year celebrations, in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Over 40 inspectors get show-cause notices for not reporting at new postings since June

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Over 40 police inspectors who have been transferred to different posts since June this year have not taken charge so far. Taking a serious note of this, the State police chief has issued show-cause notices charging them with disobedience and dereliction of duty.

"You are held responsible for work at the police station being hampered and this is a violation of Karnataka Civil Service (Conduct) Rules, 2021, and by violating government orders you have shown extreme irresponsibility, insubordination and dereliction of duty," the show-cause notice issued by Additional Director-General of Police (administration) Soumendu Mukharjee said.

The showcause notice issued on Thursday directs officials to report to the duty immediately or submit their reply explaining their absence with the reason in the next seven days failing which they would be suspended and a departmental inquiry initiated against them.

Police transfers proved to be herculean task for the for the incumbent government as there were a lot of confusion in the earlier transfers. Although the Police Establishment Board headed by the State police chief is supposed to oversee the transfers of Deputy Superintendents of Police and police inspectors, the decisions invariably involve political pressures with officers using recommendations from MLAs and Ministers for plum city postings. These recommendations come from politicians who have no knowledge of factors like division of labour, special skills, optimum utilization of resources while deciding on their postings, a senior official said.

Karnataka Lokayukta Police

A perusal of the list of 40 inspectors who have refused to take up new postings show that 15 of them have been posted to Karnataka Lokayukta Police, a non-executive posting that seems to have no takers. Given that the organisation is presently headed by "strict" officers, many do not want to join them, sources said. "If given a choice I would not like to join Lokayukta Police," one of the inspectors who has been posted there but hasn't reported to his posting yet,said.

"Though the Police Establishment Board is formulated on the orders of the Supreme Court, it had remained a rubber stamp giving out formal orders based on recommendations of the Chief Minister, Ministers and MLAs. The problem of officers not reporting to their new assigned postings is not a new one. These officers feel they can lobby hard and get their postings changed and many are successful as well. There have been cases where officers haven't reported to their new assigned postings for even a year," a senior police official said.

Home Minister G. Parameshwar has warned of strict action against erring officials.

Even though the Police Establishment Board has powers to punish erring junior officials, it is also accountable for not executing the orders of the government in a proper and strict manner.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
GEM/2023/B/4320285 Dated: 09-12-2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Name of Work	Appx. Value
Hiring of vehicle for the official use of Officers/Supervisors of Gati Shakti/Bengaluru & Associate Finance over Bengaluru Division for a period of 24 months (Two Years)	Rs. 2,42,27,652/-

Last date for submission of bids: Up to 18:30 hrs. of 01.01.2024
For details log on: https://gem.gov.in
Deputy Cheif Electrical Engineer/GSU Bengaluru
PUB/558/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTICE NO. Y/MD.EST/I/DRS. DATED 07.12.2023
NOTIFICATION INVITING APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF HONORARY VISITING SPECIALIST (HVS) FOR DIVISIONAL RAILWAY HOSPITAL, MYSURU
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites Applications for Honorary Visiting Specialist (HVS) in the following field for a period of one year from the date of appointment: -
1. Gynecologist, 2. Ophthalmologist, 3. Cardiologist, 4. Radiologist.
Specialist interested to work as HVS at Divisional Railway Hospital, Mysuru may send their application with detailed curriculum vitae with copies of relevant document in support of their age, qualification and experience addressed to Chief Medical Superintendent, Divisional Railway Hospital, Mysuru - 570020 within 30 days from the date of publication of this notification.
Kindly visit the Railway Website **www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in** for eligibility criteria and other details pertaining to the selection of HVS.
For any queries / clarifications kindly contact on 08212866020 or **cmsofficerhmys@gmail.com**
Chief Medical Superintendent Mysuru
PUB/559/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
I am hereby causing this public notice to General public on the instruction of our client **Sri. Hanumantharaju.C** S/o Late Channahanumaiah, Resident of Doddabele Village, Thymagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk that, he lost the original Gift deed dated 18.12.2002,registered vide document No.20531/2002-03, registered at the office of the Sub-Registrar at Bangalore North and its mother deed i.e., Sale deed dated 16.09.1966, registered vide document No. 3740/1966-67, registered at the office of the Sub-Registrar Peenya on 15.08.2023 at K.K.Road, T. Dasarahalli with respect to his property bearing Katha No.73, carved in Sy.No.56/6 of Dasarahalli Village, Yashwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk. Immediately thereafter after due searching he has lodged the police complaint with the concerned Bagalagunte Police station on 14.12.2003 vide its Serial number 0848785/2023.
Therefore, if anybody found the aforesaid Gift and Sale deed be pleased to return the same to our client at his residence referred supra or to our office situated at Nelamangala forthwith.
Contact mob no. 8123848484
Date: 14.12.2023 Sd/-
Place: Bangalore **Ravi P,** Advocates, R & L Associates, 1st Floor, K.R.P Building, Paramanna layout, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. Mob: 9972577244, 9591228359

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM-01
Dated:13.12.2023
In E-tender No. CPM-GSU-JBP-EPC1-2023, dated: 08.12.2023, invited by Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti Unit, West Central Railway, Jabalpur following amendment is being carried out: **Published as:** Opening date & time of tender: 16:00 hrs. on 05.01.2024, **Amended as:** Date and time of opening of tender: At 16:00 Hrs(IST) on 01.02.2024. Complete information of Tender available on website **https://ireps.gov.in** and remain unchanged.
DY.CE., GSU, WCR, Jabalpur
स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that my Client intends to purchase Immovable Residential Vacant Site bearing No.68, Old Katha No.360, BBMP Katha No.1060/360/33/1/68, Situated at SAMPIGEHALLI VILLAGE, YELAHANKA HOBLI, BANGALORE NORTH TALUK, BENGALURU, (converted for non-agricultural residential use as per conversion order bearing No.BDS.ALN.(NA)SR103/98-99, dated 12-10-1999, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District), Coming Under the Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Ward No.5 and bounded on the : East by : Property No.50 and 51, West by : Road, North by : Property No.67, South by : Property No.69, Measuring East to West : 30 Ft and North to South : 40 Ft in all measuring a total extent of 1200 Sq.ft. for valuable consideration from Mr. MADHU D NAIR, Aged-52, S/o. Mr. Damodaran Nair, R/a. No.248, 3rd Cross, Balaji Krupa Layout, Hegde Nagar, Sampigehalli, Bengaluru.
Any person/s/government body/financial institutions/bank/s/Legal Heirs having any right, title, claims, interest or objections in respect of the said Sale of Property shall register the same in writing with documentary proof with the undersigned subsisting his/her/its/their claims within Fifteen (15) Days from the date of publication of this Public Notice. If no valid objections are received within the stipulated time, it will be presumed that there are no claims/objections and my Client will then be free to conclude the transaction in respect of the said Property in his/her/their favour without any notice. Any objection thereafter will not be entertained.
ILAHI-BAKASH, SYED ILYAS, Advocates, LEGAL WRITES
No. 1, I Floor, LAKSHMI COMPLEX, No. 450/14/1, 27th Cross, 10th Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560 011

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS DIVISION, GUMLA.
Request for Proposal for Performance based Maintenance Contracts.
E-mail: eenhgumlajhr@gmail.com / eenhgumla-jhr@nic.in

NIT No. NH/GUMLA/PBMC/01/2023-24 Dated : 13-12-2023

Application in the prescribed format form eligible contractors for Request for Proposal Performance based Maintenance Contracts (PBMC) mode are invited for following project in two bid systems, (Technical & Financail)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	State	Length	Approximate Cost	Cost of RFP document in Rs	Bid Security	Contract Duration* (Month)
1	PBMC Work of NH-78 (New NH-43) from km 0.00 to Km 10.00 (Total Length=10.00Km) in the State of Jharkhand	Jharkhand	10.00 km	74725880.00	10,000/-	7.5 Lakhs	60

Important Dates.

1.	Date of Issue of Notice Inviting RFP	13-12-2023
2.	Last Date For Receiving Queries	02-01-2024
3.	Pre-BID Meeting At Venue (as mentioned in RFP)	08-01-2024 at 12:30 Hrs Office of the Chief Engineer, NH Wing Ranchi, Jharkhand.
4.	Authority Response To Queries Latest by	05-01-2024
5.	Period of Sale of Bid Document	From 18-12-2023 12:00 HRS to 18-01-2024 upto 15:00 HRS Through official portal of : [https:// eprocure.gov.in]
6	BID Due Date	Date 18-01-2024 Up to 15:00 HRS Through official portal of : [https:// eprocure.gov.in]
7.	Last date of physical submission of bid security, POA and other documents in original	18-01-2024, up to 15.00 HRS
8.	Time and Date of Opening Technical Bid (RFP)	Date 19-01-2024, 15:00 HRS Through official portal of : [https:// eprocure.gov.in]
9.	Time and Date Opening Financial Bid	To be notify. Through official portal of : [https:// eprocure.gov.in]
10.	Place of Opening of Bids	Office of the Chief Engineer, NH Wing Ranchi, Jharkhand. Thorugh official portal of : [https:// eprocure.gov.in/]
11.	Bid Validity	120 Days From the Bid Due Date.
12.	Officer Inviting Bids	Executive Engineer NH Division, Gumla RCD Jharkhand

(a). Bid Document fee (Cost of RFP document) which **Rs. 10,000/-(Rupees Ten thousand only)** shall be paid only through NTRP(Non –Tax Receipt Portal) Portal https://bharatkosh.gov.in to Pay & Accounts Officer (PAO: 034756 in "Regional Pay Accounts Officer [RPAO (NH), Kolkata code No. 034756 and DDO Code No. 202122 Purpose: Sale of Tender Documents.] . The GST of Rs. 1800/- (Rs. One Thousand Eight hundred only) applicable on the sale of tender document shall be submitted in the form of Demand Draft favouring "Regional Pay & Accounts Officer (NH), MoRT&H, Kolkata", payable at Kolkata.
(b). Bid Security "Bid Security of Rs. **7.5 Lakhs** (Rupees Seven lakhs fifty thousand) in the form Original Bank Guarantee in the format as mentioned in RFP from a scheduled Bank in favour of Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Gumla . Bid Security in the form of B.G. only will have to be deposited in any office of the (i) Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Gumla (ii) Superintending Engineer, National Highway Circle, Ranchi (iii) Chief Engineer, National Highway Wing, Ranchi (iv) Regional Officer, Ministry of Road Transport & Highway, Jharkhand Ranchi on before 15:00 HRS on **18-01-2024** failing which the bid will be rejected.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
National Highways Division ,Gumla.
PR 313495 Road(23-24).D

17 Bills passed in a not-so-stormy winter session

BJP failed to corner Cong. over law and order issue as the govt. deflected the attack by bringing up North Karnataka debate as a deterrent

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

A view of the Legislative Assembly. During the 10-day session in Belagavi, House business was conducted for 66 hours.

Curtains came down on the first winter session of this Congress government here on Friday with the ruling party getting 17 Bills passed amid threats of disruption of the House proceedings by the Opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) over political issues.

Though the winter session was expected to discuss the prevailing drought in the State and a plethora of issues affecting the Kittur Karnataka and Kalyana Karnataka regions of North Karnataka on which the Opposition was expected to attack the government, the proceedings were not stormy.

While the Opposition planned to corner the government over the issues of withdrawal of the consent given to the Central Bureau of Investigation in Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's disproportionate assets case and Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed's statement on the Speaker's chair, the government successfully managed the business with both the issues not making too big a noise. The BJP also failed to corner the Congress over the law and order situation as the government deflected the attack by bringing up the North Karnataka debate as a deterrent.

On the other hand, the internal differences in the BJP over its recent appointment of R. Ashok as Leader of the Opposition and B.Y. Vijayendra as the BJP president and a lack of coordination in its ranks became stark multiple times. Senior BJP member Basannagouda Patil Yatnal also repeatedly took digs at the BJP leadership both within and outside the Legislative Assembly, embarrassing the saffron party. This was also the first legislature session for the BJP and the JD (S) after their alliance for the Lok Sabha election was announced, and complete coordination was visibly lacking at times.

Meanwhile, in the 10-day session, House business was conducted for 66 hours during which the Sate's mid-term fiscal report and supplementary estimates were approved. In the Assembly, of the 150 starred questions, answers were given to 148 while of the 2,206 unstarred questions, answers were received for 2,010.

Only two absent

According to Speaker U.T. Khader, only two legislators – the former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Congress legislator Priya Krishna – remained absent for the entire session. Mr. Bommai is recuperating after a heart surgery.

In all, Karnataka legislature has met for 28 days in 2023, far less than the at least 60 days suggested in the Karnataka Conduct of Government Business in the Legislature Act, 2005. Mr. Khader said it was up to the government to hold the session and legislators to participate. He said that during the 10-day winter session, about 27,000 schoolchildren and about 14,500 general public watched the proceedings from the visitors gallery.

In the Legislative Council, about 58 hours of proceedings were conducted over the 10 days of which four-and-a-half hours went for chaos and dharna. Of the 150 starred questions, answers were given for 103 in the House and 41 answers were given in writing. Of the 1,057 unstarred questions, answers were provided to 970 by the government.

Interest waiver on medium-term, long-term coop. loans if farmers pay up the principal

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Announcing relief: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in the Legislative Assembly in Belagavi on Friday.

In a bid to provide relief to farmers gripped by drought, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday announced a waiver of interest on their medium- and long-term loans availed from cooperative banks if they pay up the principal amount.

The Chief Minister made this announcement while replying to a debate on issues related to North Karnataka on the last day of the 10-day winter session of the State legislature in Belagavi.

Counter-attack

Launching a counter-attack at the BJP, which ridiculed him for not announcing any loan waiver scheme, the Chief Minister recalled that the then Chief Minister and BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa had remarked that he did not have a note printing machine to waive farm loans though loan waiver was part of his party's pre-poll promise.

Taking exception to Mr. Yediyurappa's recent remarks that he would launch a struggle against the government if farm loans were not waived, the Chief Minister sought to know from the veteran BJP leader if he had waived farm loans when he was the Chief Minister.

Pointing out that 14 States in the country were reeling under drought, Mr. Siddaramaiah urged the BJP-led government at the Centre to waive farm loans in these States. Maintaining that he had walked the talk, the Chief Minister told the BJP to learn to keep up its promises.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok demanded that the government waive loans of farmers up to ₹2 lakh and provide a drought compensation of ₹25,000 an acre for those whose crops had dried up.

White Paper sought

He demanded a White Paper on the State's finances so that there would be clarity on whether the government would be able to fund it's welfare measures. He also alleged that none of the measures announced for the development of North Karnataka by the Chief Minister in the winter session had a clear financial allocation.

The BJP staged a walkout expressing dissatisfaction that the announcement of schemes without financial support were futile.

Assembly witnesses heated exchange over withdrawal of nod to CBI to probe against DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Legislative Assembly on Friday witnessed a heated exchange of words between members of the combined Opposition BJP-JD(S) and the Congress over the issue of the State Cabinet withdrawing the consent given to the CBI to probe disproportionate assets cases against Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Opposition members sought permission from Speaker U.T. Khader to debate the issue through an adjournment motion that has censuring clause. While making preliminary submission on the admissibility of the motion sought to be moved by them, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok argued that the government should have left the decision on withdrawal of consent to the courts, which were already looking into the issue.

He expressed concern that withdrawing the consent to the CBI to probe against Mr. Shivakumar would set a bad precedent.

However, intervening during the preliminary submissions, Home Minister G. Parameshwara contended that the issue

Speaker denies permission to debate the issue through an adjournment motion

should not be taken up for discussion in the Assembly as it was *sub judice*. Also, it was an issue pertaining to an individual which did not merit discussion in the Assembly, he maintained.

This attracted the wrath of the Opposition members who wondered why the State Cabinet took it up on priority if it was just a matter pertaining to an individual. Senior BJP members V. Sunil Kumar and S. Suresh Kumar asked the government to clarify the State Cabinet's priority.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao too intervened and maintained that the State Cabinet had withdrawn the consent given for the probe as the erstwhile BJP government had given the consent out of political vendetta. This further escalated the heated argument between the Opposition and the ruling benches.

Finally, the Speaker denied permission to the Opposition to raise the issue through an adjournment motion on the grounds that the matter was before the court and that it was an issue pertaining to an individual.

In the Council

Meanwhile, even in the Legislative Council, Chairman Basavaraj Horatti did not allow the Opposition BJP to discuss the decision of the State government.

When BJP member Kota Srinivas Poojary requested the Chair to move an adjournment motion, the Chairman said that when the matter is pending before the court, discussion over the same cannot be allowed.

From Page One

High-powered panel to be formed

The Chief Minister said the ground-level situation, particularly in North Karnataka, had indicated that there were still regional imbalances.

As per the Nanjundappa committee's recommendation, a total of ₹31,000 crore had been spent on backward taluks over eight years from 2007-08. Later, another committee formed by him had put the number of most backward taluks at 40 and funds had been provided for their development, he noted.

Observing that better development of some parts was partially due to the pro-active steps taken by the erstwhile kings of Mysore towards development in their region, the Chief Minister declared that his government would display full commitment in tackling the issue.

He promised to increase the grants for Kalyana Karnataka's development from the present ₹3,000 crore to ₹5,000 crore from next year.

He appealed to all the politicians to desist from raking up the demand for a separate North Karnataka State, by observing that it was not a solution to tackling the backwardness of this region. "Also, it would be a crime against those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the State's unification," he said.

At the same time, the Chief Minister launched a counter-attack at the Opposition BJP which accused the Congress of being responsible for regional imbalances as it ruled the State for the longest time.

"Who built the dams in north Karnataka?" he shot back at the BJP, indicating that the foundation for development was laid by the Congress. He sought to project the BJP government at the Centre in poor light by stating that the Mahadayi and Mekedatu projects were languishing as the Centre was yet to provide necessary clearances. He took exception to the Centre not releasing the announced funds for the Upper Bhadra project.

Referring to Article 371 J that has helped in providing reservation in jobs and education to those from the backward regions of Hyderabad Karnataka, he said the then Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani had opposed the proposal in this regard by the Congress government in Karnataka. However, later, the Congress government at the Centre took the proposal further.

The Opposition BJP staged a walkout expressing dissatisfaction over the Chief Minister's reply.

CM announces a slew of projects for development of NK

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Action plan to promote key tourism destinations in the region, setting up industrial estate on 2,000 acres near Belagavi are among them

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday announced a slew of projects for the development of North Karnataka, including that of preparing a comprehensive action plan for promoting its prominent tourism destinations and developing an industrial estate on 2,000 acres of land near Belagavi.

Making these announcements, hours before the conclusion of the 10-day winter session of the State legislature in Belagavi, the Chief Minister said a foundry cluster would also be set up on 500 acres of land near Belagavi.

Similarly, an FMCG cluster would be set up in Dharwad district with an intention to generate 2,400 jobs. In addition to this, a manufacturing cluster would be set up on 1,500 acres of land in Vijayapura while emphasis would be given to cotton-based industries in the cotton hub of Raichur, he said.

He also announced that the Dharwad-based Water and Land Management Institute would be upgraded as the Centre of Excellence for Water Management. Among other things, the proposed centre would impart water literacy besides creating awareness about ways of handling salinity of soil, he said.

"We will also focus on completing Ballari and Raichur airport projects," he said. He observed that development of backward regions in North Karnataka would help increase the GDP of the State which would further boost the State's growth.

In Council, while Mr. Siddaramaiah was announcing a slew of projects for the development of North Karnataka, BJP members trooped to the Well of the House and staged a dharna demanding that the government announce a special grant of ₹10,000 crore to tackle drought. In addition, it also demanded ₹25,000 per hectare as a relief to farmers affected by drought. The government should waive farm loans up to ₹2 lakh, the BJP demanded.

Adjourned *sine die*

Soon after the Chief Minister concluded his announcements, Chairman Basavaraj Horatti adjourned the House *sine die* even as the BJP members remained in the Well.

The Assembly was also adjourned *sine die*.

Veerashaiva Mahasabha urges govt. to undertake fresh, 'scientific' caste census

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Community plea: Lingayat leaders submitting a memorandum to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Belagavi on Friday. P.K. BADIGER

The Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha, in a petition signed by many community leaders including Ministers, has urged the Karnataka government to undertake a fresh and "scientific" socio-economic and educational survey (caste census) based on facts, and alleged that the 2015 survey was "factually inaccurate".

Claiming that the mahasabha is not opposed to caste census, a delegation led by its president Shamanur Shivashankarappa told Chief Minister Siddaramaiah here on Friday that the census conducted in 2015 suffered from lacunae. "There is a need to set right this problem. That is why we are appealing to you to undertake a new scientific caste survey based on facts," the petition submitted to Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

The petition was signed by 33 of the 49 Lingayat legislators. They included Ministers Eshwar Khandre, M.B. Patil, and Shivanand Patil, BJP State president B,Y. Vijayendra, Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, and Aravind Bellad.

Earlier, Vokkaligara Sangha also argued that there was an undercount of Vokkaliga community and demanded that the government reject the survey report and reconduct the census. The petition of the sangha was signed by leaders from across parties, including Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and the former Chief Minister and JD(S) State president H.D. Kumaraswamy.

The mahasabha in its petition, on Friday, said that many of its members had complained that the enumerators of the caste census had not approached their families for details and that complaints over the survey being prepared in the office had been made. "Out of fear of losing out on the reservation, many Veerashaiav/Lingayats had only entered their sub-caste names. On the other hand, there are doubts about the entries made regarding other castes. There is no mechanism for random testing to ascertain facts. We do not want to snatch away any other community's rights." The mahasabha also said that since the survey report is now eight years old, it would not be ideal to accept the caste survey report and instead a fresh survey should be conducted.

Belagavi stripping incident: BJP to stage dharna in all districts

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Principal Opposition BJP will be staging a dharna in all the district centres on Saturday to protest against the incident of a woman being stripped and tied to pole by the relatives of a girl who eloped with her son in Belagavi district.

Announcing this in Belagavi on Friday, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said women would participate in large numbers in these protests, which were being taken up to caution the government about the need to strengthen the law and order system in the State. He said a five-member team from the BJP central unit would visit Belagavi district on Saturday to call on the victim who is undergoing treatment in a hospital.

Mr. Vijayendra, who also visited the victim on Friday, told mediapersons that the government lacked the seriousness to take the issue to a logical end.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

13th ANNIVERSARY

Born: 04.12.1960 Died: 16.12.2010
Mr. G.PADMANABHAN
MANAGING DIRECTOR
Pay our homage with thanks.
Family Members & Employees of
INDELECT TECHNOLOGIES PVT. LTD, CHENNAI
Ct: 93802 43402 / 9382543299

Grand beginning: Chief Justice of Madras High Court S. V. Gangapurwala lighting the lamp at the 97th annual conference and concerts of the Music Academy in Chennai on Friday. (From right) Music Academy president N. Murali, Carnatic vocalist Bombay Jayashri, Lalgudi VIjayalakshmi, and Lalgudi G.J.R. Krishnan are on the stage. M. SRINATH

M.S. Subbulakshmi Award conferred on Bombay Jayashri

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Classical music not only preserves the nuances of the art form but also allows adequate space for artists for improvisations and creativity in their renditions, said the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, S.V. Gangapurwala, on Friday.

Inaugurating the 97th annual conference and concerts of the Music Academy, he presented the M.S. Subbulakshmi Award instituted by *The Hindu* to vocalist Bombay Jayashri, the Sangita Kalanidhi-designate of this year.

Music capital

Noting that Chennai has grown into the Carnatic music capital, the Chief Justice lauded the Music Academy for promoting the art and also for recognising the contributions of prominent artists. The academy had also sustained Chennai as a seat of tradition and culture through music festivals.

He also released the journal and souvenir of the Academy, which were received by Carnatic musicians Lalgudi G.J.R. Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi.

Earlier, N. Murali, president, the Music Academy and director, The Hindu Group of Publications, elaborated on the academy's association with the stalwarts in legal profession. Several Chief Justices and judges of the Madras High Court as well as a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court have inaugurated the annual music festivals in the past.

80 concerts this year

Highlighting the Music Academy's activities, he said the academy has been conducting the annual fests without a break since 1929. This year, about 80 concerts would be held as part of the festival till January 1 apart from morning academic sessions.

Felicitating Ms. Jayashri, he said her musical journey has many cross-cultural influences and she has collaborated with experts from several art forms. She is the quintessential modern Carnatic music performer who took art across boundaries. Recalling her recent health setback, he said she would not be performing during this season and expressed the hope that she would enthral *rasikas* next year. Mr. Murali also expressed solidarity with Chennai that suffered a deluge.

Ms. Jayashri recalled her long association with the Music Academy as a listener in 1982 and later as a participant in competitions. The academy has nurtured talents and patronised Carnatic music over several decades. She thanked the academy for choosing her for the coveted award. V. Srikanth, secretary, the Music Academy also spoke.

Telangana Cong. govt. says it will focus on 'financial discipline'

State has no fiscal prudence left because of the 'bad governance' by the outgoing BRS, says Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan in her address

M. Rajeev
HYDERABAD

First meet: Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan presenting her address, in Hyderabad on Friday. BY ARRANGEMENT

Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, in her address to the joint sitting of the State Legislature held for the first time after the recent Assembly elections, said that the new Congress-led Telangana government has decided to focus on infusing financial discipline in the State as "there is no fiscal discipline or financial prudency" left because of the "bad governance" by the outgoing BRS government.

The State government is of the view that improving the financial situation on a war footing is its greatest challenge now. The government is accordingly on the job of identifying the lacunae that took place in financial management, where wasteful expenditure is indulged in and where financial irregularities took place, said Ms. Soundararajan.

"My government is focussed on strengthening the derailed financial situation. The entire financial discipline in the State is destroyed," the Governor said in her traditional address to the joint sitting of the Legislature on Friday. The government accordingly intended to bring financial prudence without putting financial burden on people, she said, asserting "this is our government's aim and goal".

Poll promises

The Governor has also asserted that the new Congress government headed by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is dedicated to implement each and every promise it made in the party's manifesto.

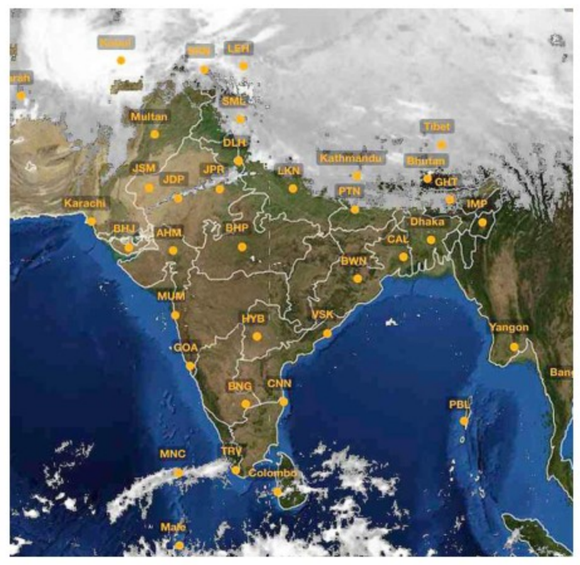
The government is in the process of preparing an action plan based on the promises made in the poll manifesto and is committed to implement all the declarations the Congress made for farmers, youth, backward classes and other sections in letter and spirit. The government would provide quality uninterrupted power supply to agriculture sector and give minimum support price to each crop.

The government was equally committed to implement all the promises it made to the youth. Accordingly, a mega District Selection Committee (DSC) would be conducted within six months for filling up the teachers' posts. Steps had already been initiated to clean up the State public Service Commission and they would be followed by steps measures to fill up two lakh vacancies within one year.

The Governor said that the Secretariat would forthwith be not just a decorative symbol and the government was committed to protecting the constitutional institutions. "This is not a feudal rule. We will instil confidence in people that this is a real democracy," she said. The government was committed to render justice to all sections who took part in the separate statehood movement and welfare and development would be based on the aspirations of these sections.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty wind speed likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Punjab and Haryana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	25.1	11.4	Kozhikode	—	34.6	24.6
Ahmedabad	—	29.5	17.7	Kurnool	—	29.5	18.2
Aizawl	—	23.0	—	Lucknow	—	24.9	8.9
Allahabad	—	26.8	9.8	Madurai	—	31.0	24.2
Bengaluru	—	26.3	17.4	Mangaluru	—	32.6	22.6
Bhopal	—	28.4	10.8	Mumbai	—	33.3	20.2
Bhubaneswar	—	26.9	15.3	Mysuru	—	29.2	24.4
Chandigarh	—	22.6	8.0	New Delhi	—	25.4	4.9
Chennai	9.3	27.4	25.0	Patna	—	25.6	10.8
Coimbatore	—	29.6	20.2	Port Blair	0.2	32.0	25.4
Dehradun	—	23.4	6.4	Puducherry	1.8	29.0	23.2
Gangtok	—	14.8	6.7	Pune	—	28.2	15.1
Goa	—	32.8	21.1	Raipur	—	27.8	14.4
Guwahati	—	25.0	12.5	Ranchi	—	23.6	8.4
Hubballi	—	30.0	18.0	Shillong	—	16.0	5.0
Hyderabad	—	28.1	14.7	Shimla	—	17.4	7.4
Imphal	—	23.1	7.5	Srinagar	—	9.6	-3.5
Jaipur	—	25.0	10.2	Thiruvananthapuram	0.1	33.6	24.7
Kochi	—	31.2	25.6	Tiruchi	—	29.7	24.0
Kohima	—	15.4	5.2	Vijayawada	—	28.6	20.4
Kolkata	—	25.1	14.5	Visakhapatnam	—	29.0	22.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	1	28	135	118	
Bengaluru	7	11	51	114	118	
Chennai	14	25	189	112	86	
Delhi	25	154	102	341	374	
Hyderabad	7	103	42	132	131	
Kolkata	22	102	18	292	192	
Lucknow	10	50	42	299	186	
Mumbai	4	21	45	204	155	
Pune	117	169	108	273	151	
Visakhapatnam	14	49	39	130	118	

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Purnia, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 416 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Silchar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 31

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

CPI(M) perceives cracks in UDF over 'financial embargo'

Govindan says Kunhalikutty had evinced interest in cooperating with the ruling LDF

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) perceives that the Central government's "financial embargo" on Kerala has created political fissures in the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF).

Speaking to pressperons here on Friday, CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan said Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leader P.K. Kunhalikutty had evinced interest in cooperating with the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) to wrest what the Centre financially owed Kerala and also fight against the BJP-led Union government's "economically stifling trespasses" on fiscal federalism.

He said the Congress leadership was jittered that the IUML had turned its back on the "false claim" that the LDF's financial mismanagement and reckless borrowing had precipitated the financial crisis.

He said the public had isolated the Congress for unthinkingly parroting the BJP's line that the LDF was to blame for fiscal crisis.

Airports warned against making 'Elite Meet and Greet' service mandatory

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The regulator said action will be taken against airport operators and service providers if they violate rules in this regard. FILE PHOTO

The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) has warned airport operators/service providers of stringent action if they imposed or levied charges for 'Elite Meet & Greet' service, categorised as a non-aeronautical service.

In an advisory, AERA said it had been reported by the stakeholders that some of the major airports were imposing or levying charges for the 'Elite Meet and Greet' service which was otherwise optional for the charter/aircraft operators, and making them a prerequisite for availing aeronautical services in respect of charter flights.

Making such non-aeronautical charges mandatory for availing aeronautical services amounted to altering the aeronautical charges and was a violation of the provisions of the AERA Act, 2008.

AERA clarified that Section 2(a) of the AERA Act, 2008, explicitly defined aeronautical services and did not entail availing any 'Elite Meet and Greet' service as a mandatory prerequisite for operating the aircraft/charter at the airport.

Airport operators resorting to such practices were in clear violation of the rules, the advisory said, and referred to provisions under Sections 38 and 40 of the Act that empowered AERA for initiating punitive actions on the airport operators/service providers for non-compliance of the prescribed guidelines.

It directed major airports to stop insisting that passengers opt for non-aeronautical services, which is optional, as a prerequisite for providing aeronautical service.

AERA is an independent economic regulator which aims at creating a level playing field, fostering healthy competition among all major airports, encouraging investment in airport facilities and regulating tariffs for aeronautical services.

Kerala govt. to appeal against acquittal of rape-murder accused

The Hindu Bureau
ALAPPUZHA

Pinarayi Vijayan

Terming the acquittal of a 24-year-old man accused of raping and murdering a six-year-old girl at Vandiperiyar in Idukki not something the State can be proud of, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said that steps have been taken to file an appeal against the verdict of the Special Fast-Track Court, Kattappana.

"The court has made some observations and it will be taken seriously. The verdict will be examined in detail and further action will be taken," said Mr. Vijayan while speaking to presspersons in Alappuzha on Friday.

The court, while acquitting the accused, Arjun, on Thursday, observed that the police had failed to produce sufficient evidence to incriminate him in the case. The court said the prosecution had failed to prove the case.

Ex-Telangana CM KCR discharged from hospital

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao was discharged from Yashoda Hospital, Somajiguda on Friday morning. He was admitted to the hospital after a fall on December 8. Mr. Rao underwent hip surgery on the same day and remained at the hospital to recover.

Mr. Rao, who was elected as Bharat Rashtra Samithi's (BRS) Legislative Party leader recently, could not attend the oath-taking ceremony of new MLAs at the Telangana Assembly owing to his hospitalisation.

'Do not see contradictions arising within INDIA bloc at Dec. 19 meet'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Sitaram Yechury

With the leaders of the INDIA bloc of parties set to have their fourth meeting in Delhi on December 19, Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury does not see any major contradictions arising within the alliance due to the recent results of the Assembly elections in five States.

Responding to a question from *The Hindu* after delivering the first P. Ramamurthi Memorial Lecture in Chennai on Thursday, he said the INDIA bloc was clear in its focus on jointly defeating the BJP in the 2024 parliamentary elections. "That is what we will be working on. There will be some questions. Many will naturally feel that Congress should have responded better (in the recent Assembly polls)," he said, adding that those issues will however, will not lead to any serious contradictions.

In his lecture, he said the BJP's victory in the recent election to the State Assemblies should not be a concern for the 2024 Parliamentary elections as there need not be any correlation between the two. He pointed out the BJP registered victories in these same States in 2003 but went on to lose power at the Centre in 2004. Similarly, he said though Congress won the same States in 2018, it could not come to power in the 2019 general elections.

Highlighting that Tamil Nadu has shown the way in the past in defeating the BJP, he expressed hope that the State will not return any MPs for the party in the 2024 elections as well.

According to him, the BJP had to be removed from the government since it was using the State power to further its agenda of converting India from a democratic, secular republic to a fascist, Hindutva state.

He charged one of the strategies adopted by the BJP was to dismantle the federal structure and have a unitary control of the country from the Centre. Expressing concern over the recent judgment of the Supreme Court, upholding Union government's abrogation of Article 370, he said this could mean that a party with a simple majority in Parliament can divide any State and even reduce them to union territories.

Japanese film *Evil Does Not Exist* wins top honour at IFFK

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Japanese film *Evil Does Not Exist*, directed by Ryusuke Hamaguchi, which poetically foregrounded ecological concerns in a fast-changing world, won the Golden Crow Pheasant (*Suvarna Chakoram*) for the best film at the 28th International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) that concluded in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram on Friday.

Yoshio Kitagawa, the film's cinematographer, received the award which carries a cash prize of ₹20 lakh, memento, and certificate.

Fazil Razak's *Thadavu* (The Sentence) won big, taking home the Silver Crow Pheasant (Rajatha Chakoram) award for the best film chosen through an audience poll as well as the *Rajatha Chakoram* for the best director.

Earlier, filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan presented the IFFK Lifetime Achievement Award to Polish filmmaker Krzysztof Zanussi.

Actor Prakash Raj, chief guest at the function, said it was always a joy to be in Kerala "for the warmth, for the love for the beliefs you have, and especially being the god's own country that keeps god away from politics".

Kerala High Court closes Hadiya's father's plea

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Friday closed a *habeas corpus* petition filed by the father of Akhila, alias Hadiya, seeking a directive to the police to trace his daughter, in view of the submission by the government pleader that she is not in anybody's illegal custody.

Hadiya had converted to Islam and got married earlier. When her father's petition came up before the Bench, the government pleader told the court that she got divorced, married again and was now living in Thiruvananthapuram.

Debt and welfare

As it seeks to fulfil poll promises, the BJP must keep an eye on the exchequer

With the swearing-in of Mohan Yadav as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has heralded a new era, a shift from Shivraj Singh Chouhan's reign of nearly 20 years. In Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, the BJP has chosen new leaderships. Though Mr. Chouhan continues to command significant popularity in the State, a realignment of interest groups and leaders is now likely. The BJP's massive majority is largely being credited to Mr. Chouhan who undertook 165 rallies ahead of the polls. But that strength, paradoxically, could force the new Chief Minister to chart his own course. With Mr. Yadav, an OBC leader, and his deputies – Jagdish Devda, an SC leader, and Rajendra Shukla, a Brahmin leader – the BJP aims to consolidate its rainbow caste coalition in the State, with the pointed exclusion of Muslims. Meanwhile, continuing its tribal outreach, the new government in one of its first decisions increased the Tendu *patta* collection rate from ₹3,000 to ₹4,000 per bag, a promise it had made in its manifesto. The party also expects to radiate the effects of that consolidation to neighbouring Hindi-belt States. In Madhya Pradesh, OBCs alone form more than 50% of the population, while SCs account for about 17%. Brahmins are considered an influential community in the State's Vindhya region, a long-time BJP stronghold. The Yadavs have been relatively less enthusiastic than others to the BJP's overtures towards OBCs. Hence, Mr. Yadav's appointment is a new leap in the BJP's social engineering.

The new government will have its hands full from the word go. One of the most prominent and effective campaign promises of the BJP was to enhance the Ladli Behna Scheme. About 1.31 crore women from poor households get ₹1,250 a month at present, and the BJP, under Mr. Chouhan, had promised to gradually raise it to ₹3,000. Mr. Yadav, however, has not yet indicated his plans on this. The BJP has also promised to hike the support prices of wheat and paddy crops to ₹2,700 and ₹3,100, respectively. It had also promised to provide LPG cylinder at ₹450 to the beneficiaries of the Ladli Behna Scheme and the Centre's PM Ujjwala scheme. Fulfilling these promises and continuing welfare schemes are expected to pose an extra burden to the State's exchequer as the government is already reeling under heavy debt, estimated to be close to ₹4 lakh crore, due to various loans by the previous governments. The BJP's social engineering involves wider representation and a widening hamper of welfare schemes. Needless to say, it has social and economic costs.

Acceleration foretold

If inflation is not tamed, there is risk to consumption and growth

November's resurgence in headline retail inflation, while clearly not unexpected after the RBI just last week predicted a likely 'uptick', is a stark reminder of the risks volatile food prices pose. While the National Statistical Office's provisional reading of headline inflation shows the Consumer Price Index rose by 5.55% year-on-year to a three-month high, from October's 4.87%, food price gains measured by the Consumer Food Price Index accelerated by a steep 209 basis points to 8.7% last month. Propelling the upsurge in food prices were cereals and vegetables, constituents of the 'food and beverages' subgroup, that logged 10.3% and 17.7% inflation, respectively. Cereals, that account for almost one-tenth of the CPI and logged double-digit inflation for a 15th straight month, also saw a month-on-month acceleration in inflation with rice, wheat, and the coarse cereal of jowar, a rural hinterland staple, all registering palpable sequential price gains. Vegetable prices were back on a boil with the year-on-year inflation rate surging by almost 15 percentage points from October's 2.8%. While price gains in the perishable tomato swung from two straight months of sizeable deflation to a more than 11% year-on-year rate of inflation last month, the extent of increase could be truly gauged from the fact that prices surged a steep 41% from the preceding month's levels, as per data aggregated on the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's website. And the key masala essentials of ginger and garlic registered more than 100% rates of inflation for the seventh and third months, respectively.

From the TOP or tomato, onion and potato triumvirate of India's most widely consumed vegetables, onion prices remained the biggest source of concern as year-on-year inflation ballooned to 86%, from October's 42% pace, and the sequential pace swelled to 48%. With reports that inclement weather and depleting groundwater are likely to cause a near 25% shortfall in onion output during the key *rabi* season, the outlook for prices of the nutrient-dense bulb moderating in the near future appears bleak, the government's move to impose a ban on its exports notwithstanding. Only potato prices, which continued to remain in deflationary territory, offered some respite. Pulses and sugar are other areas of concern, with the first witnessing more than 20% inflation and the sweetener also experiencing an uptick in the pace of price gains to 6.55%. With sugar production also expected to take a hit due to lower rainfall, the number of supply-related challenges policymakers face to rein in price gains is rising. With the RBI having opted to refrain from raising rates for now, the onus is squarely on the government to help temper inflation, or risk suffering an erosion in broader consumption and economic growth.

Opportune moment to rediscover Chennai's hydrology

S. Janakarajan

is former Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) and President, South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies (SaciWATERs)

Unusually heavy rainfall years have been becoming more frequent in recent decades in India. As a result, people are also experiencing more frequent occurrences of floods in several parts of the country including Chennai. These are considered climate change-induced floods/disasters. But the key question remains. Are we hiding behind climate change for all the blunders made so far? Chennai suffered the serious impacts of floods in 2005, 2015 and, again, in 2023. Although each one of these floods is unique in their own way, the impact has been devastating, increasing year after year. The flood in 2023 is considered the worst in the past 47 years. But the main concern is whether we have learned any lessons from past flood events. Have we resorted to corrective measures?

A few pertinent questions arise in this context: To what extent are the floods that occur due to historical human errors or blunders? To what extent has conventional wisdom followed by the State helped mitigate floods and droughts? What are the lessons learnt from the past extreme events? What should be done to make the city of Chennai flood resilient? And, how does one convert disaster into opportunity so that the city of Chennai also gets abundant water supply?

What is more, the coastal city of Chennai has also got to deal with coastal floods and climate change and the consequent impact of seawater rise. The key issue, therefore, is to highlight the necessity to decode Chennai's urban and peri-urban hydrology, its ecosystem in its totality, and make meaningful and scientific interventions not only towards flood mitigation but also towards handling droughts and in building climate-resilient strategies for Chennai and Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA).

Upstream and downstream watersheds

Chennai city and the adjoining districts are richly endowed with wonderful watersheds. There are 3,588 irrigation tanks (some are very large) in Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu and Tiruvallur districts, respectively, as highlighted in tank memoirs. These are man-made but magnificent watersheds created through a series of earthen embankments, constructed across streams which carried heavy flows during the monsoon months. These tanks were constructed in such a way that surplus from an upstream tank served as a feeder to a downstream tank. Unfortunately, these tanks are neglected, silted up with broken *bunds* and control structures. In addition, catchment areas, flood plains, feeder and supply channels and even the water spread area in many of these tanks are heavily silted and encroached. The net result is a double disadvantage: Water storage in these tanks is very little and run-off is very high (over 80%) which caused heavy damage to the city of Chennai.

> After repeated flooding in the city, the key issue now is to decode Chennai's urban and peri-urban hydrology, its ecosystem in its totality, and make meaningful and scientific interventions

In this context, this is what needs to be done: study the urban and peri-urban water dynamics – interconnected hydrological conditions; map water bodies (around 4,000) located in the 5,904 sq.km area of the proposed CMA (spread over Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram and parts of Ranipet districts). Since these districts are already substantially urban, there is a dire need to protect these water bodies from encroachments. Not just tanks, but catchment areas, inlet and surplus channels, foreshore areas (tank flood plains) and tank bunds are equally important. The missing links between these tanks need to be restored.

These water bodies need to be restored to their original capacity or, where possible, even double the capacity so that excess water can be saved in these water bodies which will contribute to a substantial saving of run-off water.

A comprehensive hydro-elevation (drainage) mapping needs to be drawn up covering the upstream-downstream watersheds with Chennai and the sea.

Wonderful flood carriers

Chennai is in fact geographically very uniquely placed, which is a blessing. It has three waterways (rivers) that run through the city, something which no other city in the country and in South Asia can boast of. The Kosasthalaiyar river runs through the northern part of Chennai, the Cooum which takes care of central Chennai, the Adyar which caters to southern Chennai, and further south, the Palar which carries the flow. Each of these rivers also feeds numerous tanks before reaching the Bay of Bengal. There is the Buckingham canal which cuts across all the four rivers in close proximity to the sea. Unfortunately, these major drainage systems are in pretty bad shape due to heavy encroachments, more so on the flood plains. These rivers have also lost their gravity and velocity due to sludge and silt deposits. Several efforts have been made to restore these rivers as well as the Buckingham Canal, but the conditions remain far from satisfactory. What these waterways need is year-long attention and maintenance and not cosmetic interventions such as river-front and canal front developments. Besides these major waterways, there are many macro and micro drains such as Okkiam *maduvu*, Mambalam canal, Velachery canal, Kodungaiyur drain, Otteri *nallah*, Virugambakkam/Arumbakkam canal, Veerangal Odai, Captain Cotton canal and the Villivakkam canal. These drains as well as the 2,900 kilometre long Storm Water Drain network constructed in the GCC area also deserve year-long attention and maintenance.

Rising urban expansion

At the same time, it is extremely critical to acknowledge the fact that the degree of urban expansion in the Chennai city has been one of the fastest in the country. And, it is important to recognise that the urban expansion process is irreversible and can be disastrous if not regulated. When the city limit was expanded from 174 sq.km to 426 sq.km, and the CMA to 1,189 sq.km, there was very little thought devoted to protecting the ecological hotspots in the expanded areas. In the process, Chennai has lost many water bodies (lakes and ponds) and much of the Pallikaranai marsh land and coastal wetlands. At present, the CMA is to be expanded from the existing 1,189 sq.km to 5,904 sq.km covering the entire districts of Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram and parts of Ranipet district as part of the Master Plan III. At least now, will the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority notify the ecological hot spots and "no development zones" in the III Master Plan so that the existing lakes (around 4,000), flood plains, forests, major drains, flood buffers and wetlands can be protected? Otherwise, one will have to continue hiding behind climate change for all accumulated blunders.

The final word. Chennai city and the CMA can be permanently saved from floods while, at the same time, get round the clock water supply even in a drought year provided the measures indicated above are followed truthfully and scientifically. This is what is called converting disaster into an opportunity.

A time-honoured connect that will help bridge the Gulf

Rajeev Agarwal

a retired colonel, is the Assistant Director of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi. He has served as Director in the Ministry of External Affairs and as Director, Military Intelligence

The Sultan of Oman, Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, is visiting India from December 16 on a state visit. This is his first visit to India after taking over in January 2020 following the passing of Sultan Qaboos. The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, had visited Oman in February 2018 in his first visit to Oman as Prime Minister. In what proved to be a landmark visit, key agreements on trade, defence and security were agreed upon, making it a milestone in diplomatic relations between India and Oman.

Oman is the closest neighbour to India in the Arabian Gulf region. With key Omani ports abutting the coastline along the Arabian Sea as well as the Gulf of Oman leading into the Persian Gulf and towards the Gulf of Aden, Oman's location is of utmost strategic importance to India. Along with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman completes the trio of key strategic partners of India in the Gulf region.

The ruling family of Oman has always had a strong connection with India. Sultan Qaboos was always favourably disposed towards India and invited Indian companies and professionals to undertake projects apart from sourcing supplies from India. At the people-to-people level too, India and Oman enjoy close ties. There is a large Indian community of almost seven lakh people which has contributed to the constantly evolving vibrant relations.

During the Cold War era, and even thereafter, when the Arab world was largely ambivalent towards India and was often soft and supportive of Pakistan, it was Oman which kept its doors open to India. In a conflict-prone region, Oman has always been an island of peace. It has pursued a foreign policy which is based on the twin strands of moderation and mediation, including a policy of deliberate neutrality in dealing with regional issues and conflicts. It has carefully balanced its close relations with the western powers and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, with a pragmatic approach to neighbouring Iran, maintaining that the Straits of Hormuz will not be closed. Even during the Persian Gulf crisis in 2019, when the United States and Iran were on the brink of a military conflict, it was Oman which played a key role in diffusing tensions.

> Oman has a pivotal role to play in India seeking deeper engagement and collaboration in West Asia

Oman's key role in the Iran nuclear deal in July 2015 is well documented and acknowledged too. During the GCC-Qatar diplomatic stand-off, Oman refused to join Saudi Arabia and other countries in breaking diplomatic ties with Qatar in June 2017. Much before the Abraham Accords were signed between Israel, the UAE and Bahrain in September 2020, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had made a surprise visit to Oman in October 2018, once again confirming the importance of Oman in the region.

India-Oman strategic partnership

Oman is a crucial pillar of India's West Asia policy, with their multi-faceted engagement increasingly taking on a more strategic shape in recent decades. The India-Oman strategic partnership was signed during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Oman in November 2008 and is based on twin pillars of mutual trust and shared interests. Oman was one of the few countries to have been invited by India to its G-20 presidency as a guest nation earlier this year.

Defence and security engagement form a key pillar of this strategic partnership and are governed by a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in 2005. Oman is the first Gulf country with which all the three wings of India's defence forces hold joint exercises. Since 2012-13, an Indian naval ship has remained on duty in the Gulf of Oman for anti-piracy operations. Oman has allowed overflights/transit by Indian military aircraft too. In recent years, both countries have cooperated in ensuring maritime security in the Indian Ocean region.

During the Persian Gulf crisis in June 2019, the Indian Navy launched 'Operation Sankalp' to ensure the safe passage of Indian flagged ships which most often operated off the coast of Oman. The MoU on Duqm Port during Mr. Modi's visit is a historic landmark in our security cooperation, providing basing facilities, Operational Turn Round and other logistics facilities to Indian naval ships operating in the region.

Trade and commerce forms yet another important pillar of engagement. Bilateral trade during FY2022-23 reached $12.388 billion. There are over 6,000 India-Oman joint ventures in Oman, with an estimated investment of over $7.5 billion.

India was the second largest market for Oman's crude oil exports for the year 2022 after China. In October 2022, India and Oman launched the Rupay debit card in Oman, a key footprint of India's initiative of promoting digital public infrastructure (DPI) in the world.

India and Oman are looking forward to increased engagement in strategic areas such as space cooperation – an MoU on this was signed during Mr. Modi's visit. The possibility of an agreement on joint exploration of rare earth metals, vital to modern electronic equipment, could add strength to the partnership. The proposed India-Middle-East-Europe Connectivity Corridor (IMEEC) infrastructure project to link India to Europe across West Asia could also see Oman playing an important role. There is a proposal from the South Asia Gas Enterprise (SAGE), a private consortium based in India, to lay a 1,400 km long deep-sea pipeline from Oman to India for the transfer of gas. With IMEEC too looking at similar undersea connectivity, there could be convergence on it with Oman in the future.

India's gateway to West Asia

The list of convergence and shared interests is thus long and limitless. As a part of its broader global outlook and its outreach in the extended neighbourhood, India is seeking deeper engagement and collaboration in West Asia, of which Oman is an important pillar. Security challenges in the region have a ripple effect in India and, therefore, any instability in the region has a direct bearing on the safety and security of millions of Indians working there, India's energy security and its steadily growing trade relations. Apart from being India's oldest strategic partner in the region and closest neighbour, Oman is an integral part of all important groupings in the region; the GCC, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the Arab League. Its ability to manage rival ideologies and power games in the region makes it vitally important to India. Both countries consider themselves as ambassadors of peace and enjoy goodwill across ideologies in the world. Oman is, therefore, India's gateway to West Asia. And with the ongoing Israel-Hamas war testing the region to its limits, the visit of Oman's Sultan is timely and very important for India and the region.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Oil spill, response

The oil spill in Chennai's Ennore-Manali area needs to be tackled on a 'war-footing'. There is also a need to undertake remediation measures to treat the oil contaminated water in a scientific and safe way. Again, the authorities need to initiate measures for the restoration of the livelihood activities of fishermen.

R. Sampath,
Chennai

Approximately six years ago, in 2017 when *BW Maple* collided with *Dawn Kanchipuram,* the volume of the spill was estimated to be 37,000 cubic metres and by the estimate of the Indian Coast Guard, about 34,000 square metres of the ocean was affected. The Indian Coast Guard was quick to respond and the oil slick was contained. On December 4, there was the oil spill at CPCL-Chennai. The National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan clearly states that the Indian Coast Guard is the central coordinating authority, but even after 10 days we are yet to see any Indian Coast Guard presence in the vicinity of the oil spill. A statement says that 7,260 litres of the spill have been collected by fishermen. If this is the Indian response to a disaster, we shudder to think what the contingency response will be in the event of a quake near the nuclear facilities in the State of Tamil Nadu.

J. Ranjit,
Chennai

Kerala's stand

The claim by the Kerala government, that the inconveniences caused to the devotees in Sabarimala, on December 6-7 were due to a sudden and sharp surge in footfalls has no takers. It is the bounden responsibility of an elected government to provide all the necessary facilities to pilgrims visiting the shrine, from various pockets of the country. The shrine is visited by devotees only during a particular period in a year, unlike Tirupati or Palani, where such a surge is a daily routine. The blame game shows the government's inability to handle such a rush even for a limited period. The authorities should create all infrastructure facilities for pilgrims to have a stress-free *darshan*. However, social media exploitation of the situation by vested interests is to be discouraged.

V.S. Kannan,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

GROUND ZERO

Intruders in Parliament

On the morning of December 13, two men entered Parliament and sprayed gas from canisters when the Lok Sabha was in session. Two others stood outside, raising slogans and spraying gas from similar canisters. **Sobhana K. Nair** reports on the four people involved and their motivations in causing the worst security breach in recent times

On December 13, at 11 a.m, the proceedings in the Lok Sabha began on a sombre note with Speaker Om Birla recalling the 2001 terror attack on the Indian Parliament. As members stood up in silence to pay tribute to the nine people who lost their lives that day, Birla said, "On this occasion, we reiterate our resolve to confront terrorism firmly. And reaffirm the oath taken to protect the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of our nation."

About half an hour later, two men – Manoranjan D., 34, an unemployed computer science engineer from Mysuru, Karnataka, and Sagar Sharma, 24, an e-rickshaw driver from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh – entered the premises as "visitors". As Zero Hour, when matters of urgent public importance are discussed, was drawing to an end and members were packing up their belongings, the two men jumped down from the gallery, startling parliamentarians and catching the security, manned by the Delhi Police, off guard. Manoranjan whipped out a canister and sprayed yellow gas into the air. The incident, which took place on the 22nd anniversary of the terrorist attack on the old Parliament building, is the most audacious security breach that Parliament has seen since.

A video grab shows police personnel detaining a man spraying gas from a canister outside Parliament, in New Delhi. PTI

Canisters in shoes

Hours earlier, Manoranjan and Sagar, along with Neelam Verma, 35, a government job aspirant from Jind district in Haryana, and Amol Shinde, 24, an Army aspirant from Latur in Maharashtra, boarded the metro from Gurugram, more than 30 kilometres from Parliament House. They had arrived in New Delhi on December 10 and were staying with their friend, Vishal alias Vicky Sharma, 45, an autorickshaw driver, in Gurugram.

At 9 a.m., Manoranjan and Sagar left Neelam and Amol at the India Gate lawns and proceeded to pick up their Parliament pass from the residence of BJP MP from Mysuru, Prathap Simha. An hour and a half later, they entered Parliament. According to the time stamp on their visitor's pass, they were allowed inside the precincts for only 45 minutes, until 12:15 p.m. According to the Delhi Police, Manoranjan had visited the new Parliament on September 18 during the special session. He probably knew that the time limit is not strictly imposed.

The two of them cleared three layers of security – the first at the entrance to Parliament and second and third inside the building – which includes going through metal detectors and being frisked aggressively. Manoranjan also knew that the security personnel did not check visitors' shoes. This is why a few days earlier, Sagar bought shoes with thick soles and made a cavity in them, while Amol bought plastic colour canisters to stuff into the shoes. According to the first information report (FIR) filed by the Delhi Police, Sagar stuffed one in the sole of his left foot and Manoranjan stuffed one in the sole of his right. As expected, the canisters went undetected.

Below the visitors' gallery, the BJP MP from Malda North (West Bengal), Khagen Murmu, was making a pitch for an airport at his constituency. But since the Lok Sabha was expected to break for lunch shortly, few were paying attention. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had left, and half a dozen Union Ministers remained seated.

As the security staff asked the visitors to leave, Sagar suddenly swung his legs over the railing and jumped onto the floor of the house. He landed close to the seat of the BJP MP from Mangaldoi (Assam), Dilip Saikia. The MP first thought that the visitor had accidentally fallen and rushed to check if he was hurt. "As I went closer to him, I saw him take something out of his shoes," Saikia recalled later. Leaping over tables and dodging bewildered MPs who were trying to catch him, Sagar charged towards the presiding officer's table. Finally, Nagaur (Rajasthan) MP Hanuman Beniwal caught him and, along with others, rained blows on him. Beniwal told *The Hindu* later that Sagar pleaded with the MPs to spare him. "He said he was there only to protest," Beniwal said.

During this melee, Manorajan jumped too and landed softly on the floor. As he went undetected for a few seconds, Manoranjan opened his canister and sprayed gas. The Congress MP from Amritsar (Punjab), Gurjeet Singh Aujla, tried to snatch the canister, but Manoranjan, despite being nearly a foot shorter than the 6-feet tall MP, fought back, said Aujla. The MP finally managed to prise it from him. He gave the canister to the security staff, who in panic threw it into the bathroom from where the Delhi Police retrieved it.

At the same time, outside the premises of Parliament, Amol and Neelam opened similar canisters and raised slogans including "*Tanashahi nahi chalegi* (Dictatorship will not be tolerated)," "Bharat Mata ki Jai," and "Jai Bhim, jai Bharat."

The police arrested all the four intruders and detained Vicky Sharma for questioning. Vicky's friend, Lalit Jha, a tutor, who allegedly possessed all the suspects' government IDs and mobile phones, later surrendered to the Delhi Police.

The police also recovered four used and one unused canister and two partly torn pamphlets from Neelam and Amol. One poster featuring a picture of a fist in the tricolor read 'Jai Hind' in English and also carried a slogan in Hindi. The second had a slogan in English on the Manipur conflict. The suspects told the police that they shared "collective responsibility" for the breach. They wanted to make themselves heard and catch the attention of the government, they said.

Fans of Bhagat Singh

The four intruders were all part of a Facebook page called the Bhagat Singh Fan Club. "On the page they would voice their opinions about current affairs and post grievances against the policies of the government," a senior officer said.

> His only wish was to serve his country
>
> **KESHARBAI**
> Mother of Amol Shinde

It was perhaps because of their admiration for Bhagat Singh that they decided to copy the April 8, 1929 attack on the central assembly or the council house that sat in the old Parliament building. On that day, according to the biography of the then presiding officer of the Assembly, by G.I. Patel, titled *Vithalbhai Patel: Life and Times*, the public galleries were full. People had come to hear Vithalbhai's ruling on the Public Safety Bill, a legislation passed to curb the activities of communists and socialists.

The Bill allowed the government to deport "undesirable and subversive foreigners." Vithalbhai's opposition to it was known and the British government expected an adversarial ruling. "Hardly had Vithalbhai opened his lips when a terrific sound resounding and reverberating the entire Assembly sector stupefied the expectant audience," G.I. Patel wrote. Bhagat Singh and his comrade Batukeshwar Dutt threw bombs from the public gallery followed by red pamphlets that read, "It takes a loud voice to make the deaf hear, with these immortal words uttered on a similar occasion by Valiant, a French anarchist martyr, do we strongly justify this action of ours." But none of the members hit the revolutionaries. Instead, they handed the two men to the police peacefully.

As per the FIR, the men have been booked under various sections of the Indian Penal code including criminal conspiracy, trespass, provoking a riot, obstructing a public servant in the discharge of functions, and destruction of evidence, and Sections 16 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967. The FIR says, "The accused persons have inspired to overawe the public functionaries from discharging their duties, during Parliament session by using criminal force."

The four intruders

Meanwhile, the families of the accused are trying to come to terms with their upended lives. Sagar's parents Roshan Lal and Rani Sharma live in a two-room tenement in Lucknow's Ramnagar, a lower middle class colony. They said Sagar was forced to stop studying after higher secondary due to the family's financial difficulties, and now drives an e-rickshaw. Sagar left home on December 10 saying that he was going to attend a protest, but didn't reveal any other details, they said.

Sagar Sharma, one of the accused persons, being produced at the Patiala House Court, in New Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

> The government has failed to keep its promise on solving unemployment. We will support her till the end. Our respect for her has increased after what she did.
>
> **RAM NIWAS**
> Brother of Neelam Verma

"He was not like this, some people disturbed him," said Roshan Lal, a carpenter. To his mind, nothing else explains the events of December 13. The couple has found old diaries belonging to Sagar, which they have handed to the police. In one of the entries, in February 2021, Sagar wrote, "The strongest person in the world is not the one who knows how to snatch, but the one who has the courage to relinquish worldly comforts." In another entry dated June 13, 2015, he wrote in Hindi, "I have pledged my life to the country... to free the country from slave mentality, I have done many an audacious work." His social media account is full of quotes by Che Guevara and Bhagat Singh, but there is no mention of any affiliation to any political party.

Neelam goes by the name 'Neelam Azad' on X. Her photo collection on social media shows that she was part of the farmer's agitation as well as the women wrestlers' protest in Delhi. Ramher Budain, secretary of the Khera Khap, said, "She would talk about unemployment. She always supported issues plaguing the poor and farmers."

Neelam's family, who belong to an Other Backward Classes community, live in Ghaso Khurd village, in Haryana's Jind district. Her father runs a sweetmeat shop and her brothers are milkmen.

Neelam is well educated: she holds an M.Phil in Sanskrit and, according to villagers, had cracked the Haryana Teachers Eligibility Test seven years ago. She was a civil services aspirant. Five months ago, her family, who are self-confessed supporters of the BJP, sent her to Hisar to take another shot at the exam.

Hours before the incident in Parliament, Neelam called her mother Saraswati Devi. She did not tell her mother that she had been in Delhi for three days. "She would often say that it was better to die as she could not find a job despite having studied so much," Saraswati said.

Neelam's younger brother, Ram Niwas, 28, said that the family had voted for Prime Minister Narendra Modi as they believed in his leadership. He maintained that he was proud of his sister. "The government has failed to keep its promise on solving unemployment. We will support her till the end. Our respect for her has increased after what she did," said Ram Niwas.

Farmers, Khap leaders, and social activists held a panchayat meeting in the village seeking Neelam's immediate release and withdrawal of charges under the UAPA.

In Amol's hometown Zari, in Latur's Nilanga Tehsil, people are stunned by his daring act. Amol's parents Dhanraj and Kesharbai, who belong to a Scheduled Caste and are farm workers, have not stopped crying about the arrest of their youngest son. "He used to keep saying that the [COVID-19 induced] lockdown had killed his chances of getting into the Army as he had already crossed the age limit. Since then, he has been trying to clear the police recruitment exam," said Dhanraj, a farm worker who is also a priest at a local temple. On December 10, Amol left home after telling his parents that he is going to Delhi for a recruitment rally.

D. Manoranjan's parents live in Mysuru. Devaraje Gowda believes that his son should be "hanged if he has done anything wrong" but insists that Manoranjan has a "heart of gold."

Manoranjan's parents shifted from Hassan district to Mysuru about 15 years ago for the children's education. After studying at Marimallappa High School and St Joseph's College in Mysuru, Manorajan enrolled for a course in Computer Science Engineering at the Bangalore Institute of Technology, which he got through recommendation of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda. On completing the course in 2013-14, Manoranjan helped his father in the sheep breeding and poultry business. On December 10, when he left home, he bid goodbye to his parents, his sister, and his newborn nephew. Two days before the incident, he called to speak to his mother.

Devaraje said that his son enjoyed a good rapport with Simha. "We are all his voters. Pratap Simha also hails from Hassan district. We had helped him win when he came to Mysuru to contest elections," he said.

Devaraje said that his son was a voracious reader and was interested mostly in books. "He read everything, from Che Guevara's *Guerrilla Warfare* to Chanakya's *Arthashastra* and books by Jiddu Krishnamurthy. He read books by Plato and Aristotle," he said.

Security breach

The incident has raised concerns about security in Parliament. While access control such as frisking and scanning baggage is the responsibility of the Delhi Police, the Parliament Duty Group, an armed component of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), is deployed in case an armed intervention is required. The Parliament Security Service, a specialised department tasked with safeguarding the complex, is now under scrutiny.

However, Parliament does not have high technology screens to detect what people carry in their shoes, a senior police officer said.

The Union Home Ministry has constituted a committee headed by acting CRPF Director General Anisha Dayal Singh to probe the lapses that led to the security breach. The committee is expected to submit its report in 15 days. Meanwhile, a top source in the security establishment said that they were also "investigating whether there is a larger conspiracy behind all this."

For Kesharbai, Amol's mother, the irony of the situation does not escape her. Her son, who is now in jail, wanted to get into the Army "at any cost," she said. "His only wish was to serve his country."

With inputs from Vijaita Singh, Alisha Dutta, Shoumojit Banerjee, Laiqh A. Khan, Mayank Kumar & Ashok Kumar

From Page One

Parliament rocked by protest over breach row

In between adjournments, senior Opposition leaders, including Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, joined the silent protests by the suspended Opposition members. The suspended MPs sat in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue on Parliament premises, protesting the action against them and demanding a statement from Mr. Shah.

The Rajya Sabha too witnessed similar incidents. Mr. Dhankhar adjourned the House till 2 p.m. after reading out his decision to reject the 23 adjournment notices of Opposition members under Rule 267 of the Rajya Sabha procedures for suspension of the scheduled businesses of the day to discuss the "serious situation arising out of breach of security" in Parliament on December 13.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) member Raghav Chadha, who was trying to raise a point of order, was warned by the Chairman. Mr. Dhankhar objected to the gesture of Mr. Chadha to seek the point of order. "Mr. Chadha, you don't have to do like this [gesture] to raise a point of order... use your tongue... don't do it," he said, adding that another day Mr. Chadha might start dancing to invite the attention of the Chair.

Mr. Dhankhar also invited Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the House Piyush Goyal and other floor leaders to meet him in his chamber, but apparently the meeting did not solve the impasse and the House was adjourned again at 2 p.m.

Sharma sworn in as CM of Rajasthan

The function was held in front of the Albert Hall in the Ram Niwas Garden. Mr. Sharma, who was the BJP's State general secretary till recently, took charge of the State on the day he turned 56. Three stages were put up at the swearing-in ceremony to accommodate different groups. Over 50 Hindu priests and seers were seated at one stage, while all the political leaders occupied chairs on another stage. The third stage was meant for the oath, where the Governor, Mr. Modi and the three leaders, who were to be sworn in, were seated. Saffron banners, posters, and hoardings, carrying pictures of Mr. Modi and details of Union government schemes as well as the BJP's 'guarantees', were put up at the venue in large numbers. Thousands of BJP workers and supporters from all over the State waved the party's flags and raised slogans such as 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Modi-Modi'.

Bhajanlal Sharma

A group of party workers from Dausa district profusely praised the decision to appoint Mr. Sharma as the CM, saying that it would enable them to promote the BJP as a "party with a difference", which could pick a first-time MLA for the top post. "It is a transformation for Rajasthan... The next generation is taking over the reins," Kishore Pareek, one of the BJP workers, said. The BJP's Bharatpur district unit vice-president Sher Singh said that Mr. Sharma's appointment would encourage party workers at the grassroots level. Several people attending the ceremony also praised Mr. Sharma's family values and respect for his parents, depicted in a social media post circulated among the spectators. The CM-designate was shown sitting on the floor with his wife and washing the feet of his mother and father to get their blessings before leaving for the function. Mr. Sharma later reached the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) and assumed office as the 14th Chief Minister, with the priests reciting Vedic hymns.

LS security breach 'mastermind' sent to seven-day police custody

Prosecutor claims Lalit Jha, a teacher from Bihar, had destroyed the mobile phones of the four other accused; investigation reveals that the group had planned to protest in Parliament on December 14 but they got visitors' passes a day earlier

Vijaita Singh
Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

In police net: Lalit Jha (centre), the key accused in the Parliament security breach case, being taken to the Patiala House Court in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Lalit Jha, who surrendered at the Kartavya Path police post in Delhi on Thursday night, has been described by the Delhi Police as the alleged "mastermind" behind the December 13 security breach in the Lok Sabha.

Jha, a teacher by profession, was produced in a city court on Friday and sent to police custody for seven days. The police had sought 15 days of custody, submitting that Jha had destroyed the phones of the other accused, and had "disclosed" the "motive" behind the group's actions.

These submissions were made by Public Prosecutor Akhand Pratap Singh in the court of Hardeep Kaur, Additional Sessions Judge and NIA special judge at the Patiala House Court.

Funding source

"He was arrested last night. He disclosed about his involvement and how he is the mastermind of the entire conspiracy and what was their motive. We need him to investigate how the conspiracy was hatched and how they got funding. This will require detailed investigation... We need to recover the mobile phones," Mr. Singh said.

The court provided legal aid for Jha as he was unrepresented, just like the four other accused who were produced in the court on Thursday.

A police source said that, after uploading a video of the December 13 protest outside Parliament on Facebook and Instagram, Jha fled to Rajasthan carrying the phones of the other accused. He is said to have deleted all data from the phones and destroyed them.

When he surrendered at the Kartavya Path police post on Thursday, he was accompanied by two other men who had provided him with logistical support.

These two men – Kailash and Mahesh – and Vicky Sharma, at whose Gurugram residence the five accused had stayed on December 12, have not been arrested by the police yet, though all three have faced police questioning. *The Hindu* had erroneously reported earlier that Mr. Sharma had been arrested.

The four other accused are Neelam Devi, 35, from Jind in Haryana; Amol Shinde, 25, from Latur in Maharashtra; Lucknow resident Sagar Sharma, 28; and Mysuru resident D. Manoranjan, 34. While Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan had jumped from the visitors' gallery into the well of the Lok Sabha, with canisters spewing a coloured gas, Devi and Shinde had protested outside the Parliament premises, where television cameras are parked.

According to the first information report (FIR), the following items were recovered from the accused: four used gas canisters and one unused canister, all manufactured in China, and two partly torn and damaged pamphlets. One poster has "Jai Hind" written on it in English, a tricoloured image of a fist, and a Hindi slogan.

The other pamphlet had a slogan in English on the recent Manipur violence, the FIR said.

Change of plans

Investigation revealed that the group's initial plan had been to demonstrate in the Parliament on December 14; however, they got their visitors' passes a day earlier, the anniversary of the December 13, 2001 Parliament terror attack.

'LS breach accused has links with Trinamool'

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The BJP's West Bengal unit on Friday alleged that there was an association between the Trinamool Congress and Lalit Jha, one of the accused in the Parliament breach case. The party highlighted a photograph of Jha with Trinamool MLA Tapas Roy.

BJP State president Sukanta Majumdar, Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari, BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya and MP Locket Chatterjee all raised a volley of allegations against the Trinamool.

"Lalit Jha, the mastermind of the attack on our Temple of Democracy, had been in close association with TMC's Tapas Roy for a long time... Isn't this proof enough for investigation into the connivance of the leader?" Mr. Majumdar wrote on X. Mr. Malviya said Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee could not remain silent on the issue.

Reacting to the BJP's attack, Mr. Roy said many people have been photographed with him and the picture in question was from 2020. The MLA said the BJP leadership was diverting the question about the security breach.

Parliament will be stalled till Home Minister speaks on LS breach: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh criticised Home Minister Amit Shah for his 'contempt of Parliament'. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Both Houses of Parliament will continue to witness disruptions until Home Minister Amit Shah makes a statement on the December 13 security lapse that allowed two visitors to intrude into the Lok Sabha chamber, the Congress said on Friday, even as it accused Mr. Shah of "contempt of Parliament".

Addressing a press conference at the All India Congress Committee headquarters, party general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh asked why Mr. Shah could not speak in Parliament when he could talk about it at a media conclave.

Mr. Ramesh said that the collective stand of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) partners was that the Home Minister should come to both Houses of the Parliament, make a statement, and take questions on the issue.

"There has been a tradition that when Parliament is in session, Ministers speak in the House. But our Home Minister is so arrogant that he can go to a TV channel and speak at length but he won't make the same statement in Parliament... It is a contempt of Parliament and parliamentary traditions," Mr. Ramesh said. The Congress leader said that though Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar had invited Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the House Piyush Goyal for a meeting to break the impasse, the Opposition did not attend.

UAPA case

Without getting into the merits of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) being pressed against the Lok Sabha intruders, Mr. Ramesh said the fact that an anti-terror law had been slapped showed the gravity of the situation and merited a statement from Mr. Shah.

"Usually, the Home Minister never misses an opportunity but this is an issue where he cannot hold Pandit [Jawaharlal] Nehru. I am sure if he [Mr. Shah] could establish a link between Pandit Nehru with what happened, he would have definitely made a statement in the Parliament," Mr. Ramesh said, taking a dig at Mr. Shah.

The Congress leader asserted that INDIA bloc MPs had given in writing to the Rajya Sabha Chairman and the Lok Sabha Speaker to direct the Home Minister to make a statement on the floor of the House and have a discussion for one to two hours.

INBRIEF

Kavitha flays Smriti Irani's stand on menstrual leave

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K. Kavitha said on Friday that she was disheartened by Union Minister Smriti Irani's stand that there was no need for paid menstrual leave. The Telangana MLC said she was appalled to see such "ignorance" of women's struggles on the part of the Union Women and Child Development Minister. "Disheartened by the Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani *ji*'s dismissal of menstrual struggles in the Rajya Sabha. As a woman, it's appalling to see such ignorance, for our struggles...," the BRS leader posted on X.

Govt. allows use of cane juice, B-molasses to make ethanol

In a U-turn, the Centre on Friday reversed its decision to ban the use of sugarcane juice for making ethanol as it allowed utilisation of the juice as well as B-heavy molasses to produce the green fuel but capped the diversion of sugar at 17 lakh tonnes. For now, the capping will be in place for the 2023-24 supply year that ends in October next year. The latest decision comes a week after the government prohibited the use of sugarcane juice and sugar syrup for making ethanol, amid the industry seeking reversal of the decision. A committee of ministers took the decision and the notification in this regard will be issued soon. "We are working on the modalities to decide on the proportion of cane juice and B-heavy molasses to be used for making ethanol," Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said. PTI

Be bold, says Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul in parting message to sitting judges

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> If with the constitutional protection that we have, we are not able to exhibit this, we cannot expect other parts of the administration to do so
> **JUSTICE SANJAY KAUL**
> Supreme Court Judge

Supreme Court judge Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul bid farewell to his fellow judges with this message – be bold.

"If with the constitutional protection that we have, we are not able to exhibit this, we cannot expect other parts of the administration to do so," Justice Kaul said from the Ceremonial Bench convened at the Chief Justice of India's courtroom on December 15, his last working day.

The courtroom was packed to the hilt with family, lawyers and well-wishers.

Attorney General R. Venkataramani said Justice Kaul's epilogue in the Article 370 judgment with a suggestion to the government to form a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to reach out to the people of Jammu and Kashmir was a "healing touch" from the court.

Justice Kaul was part of the five-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud which delivered a unanimous verdict upholding the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution.

Recently, Justice Kaul led the Bench which heard a case against the delay and 'pick-and-choose policy' followed by the government in processing judicial appointments and transfers to the High Courts.

Justice Kaul had also headed the Bench which pushed the Centre and States to act against rising air pollution in the national capital.

SC to hear Mahua's plea against expulsion from LS on January 3

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday "re-listed" a petition filed by Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra against her expulsion from Lok Sabha to January 3, 2024. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, the presiding judge on the Bench, said he did not get time to go through the file after having received it only in the morning.

'Will read file myself'

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for Ms. Moitra, said he could take the Bench quickly through the synopsis of the case. "I would like to read the file myself," Justice Khanna responded.

The case was listed before Justice Khanna's Bench's a couple of days after Mr. Singhvi made an oral mention before Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on December 13.to urgently list the petition.

Mahua Moitra

December 15 is the last working day for the court, which is going into recess for Christmas and New Year vacations.

The Trinamool leader was expelled from the Lok Sabha on December 8 over cash-for-query allegations.

'Collegiums yet to propose names for 201 vacancies'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Friday informed the Lok Sabha that 81 of the 123 proposals sent by High Court collegiums for appointment of judges are at various stages of processing with the government.

The remaining 42 proposals are under the consideration of the Supreme Court Collegium, the Law Minister said in a written reply. Mr. Meghwal also said recommendations are yet to be received from the High Court collegiums regarding the remaining 201 vacancies.

In another written reply, the Law Minister said that over five crore cases were pending in various courts of the country.

V.K. Pandian will not contest elections in 2024, says BJD

Putting all speculation to rest, V.K. Pandian, close aide of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, on Friday told the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) that he would not contest the Lok Sabha election or the Assembly election next year. After Mr. Pandian joined the BJD in November, there were rumours that the former IAS officer would contest elections. Mr. Pandian was appointed Chairman of the '5T' transformational initiative of the State government in the rank of a Cabinet Minister. The Tamil Nadu-born former bureaucrat is widely perceived to be the successor to Mr. Patnaik. Party sources said he would play a greater role in the BJD's election management, including selection of party candidates for Lok Sabha and Assembly polls.

‘Outcome of elections in Hindi heartland has shown that Opposition needs to consolidate anti-BJP votes’

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister says results of the recent polls in three States are a lesson for the Opposition INDIA bloc, but adds that Assembly elections will not have a bearing on the Lok Sabha poll; he says the Centre’s appreciation proves that DMK government efficiently handled the aftermath of Cyclone Michaung in Chennai and neighbouring districts; urges Governor to work for welfare of State

INTERVIEW

M.K. Stalin

B. Kolappan

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin says the outcome of the Assembly elections in three Hindi-speaking States has offered a lesson to the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), but it would not have a bearing on the Lok Sabha election next year.

He discusses his government’s handling of Cyclone Michaung and the flooding in and around Chennai. He, however, sidesteps a question on the *Sanatana Dharma* controversy. Excerpts:

The results of the recent Assembly elections in the Hindi heartland appear to indicate that the BJP juggernaut cannot be stopped. Do you remain optimistic about the INDIA bloc’s prospects in the next Lok Sabha election?

The outcome of the Assembly elections will not have a bearing on the Lok Sabha poll. Assembly elections are fought on issues related to a particular State.

Even though the BJP won in Rajasthan, the vote difference between the Congress and the BJP is just 10 lakh. The BJP secured six lakh votes more in Chhattisgarh. Only in Madhya Pradesh, the BJP polled 35 lakh votes more.

It is evident that, had the anti-BJP votes been channelised, the party [Congress] could not have secured victory in these three States. The INDIA bloc will consolidate the anti-BJP votes in all States and comfortably win the Parliament election. We deem as a lesson the outcome of the elections in these three States.

The Supreme Court has suggested that you and the Governor break the ice over a cup of tea to end the deadlock over administration. The Governor has invited you. Are you optimistic about the meeting?

I have met and consulted the Governor many times. We have participated together in government functions. He moved with me and spoke to me in a pleasing manner. The issue is not a meeting. The Governor should change his mind and work for the welfare of Tamil Nadu. He should avoid being a puppet in the hands of forces that are against the people, ideas, and development, and offer support for the development of the State.

The Central team that assessed the Chennai flood situation has said the damage and loss was extremely minimal because of the State government’s efforts. But there are also criticisms against your government. Are you satisfied with the relief work or feel you could have done better?

The Central team appreciated our precautionary efforts and release of water from reservoirs well in advance had avoided large-scale damage. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also expressed this view when he met me. Everyone knows the DMK and the BJP hold different views. If the Centre appreciates our efforts in spite of our differences it proves our efficient performance.

There was incessant rain for two days. We launched relief work immediately after the rain stopped. Transport was restored the next day and electricity connection was restored in most areas in three days. Normalcy returned to most suburban areas. We supplied essential commodities to flood-affected areas and shifted people to safer places. I personally visited many areas.

Twenty Ministers, 50 IAS and IPS officers, and over 20,000 government employees were on the field. Help came from other districts also. Till now we have been extending help to the needy on behalf of the DMK. We are working for the people and it is our desire to do more for them. You asked if I could have done better. I always would like to do more for the people.

In 2015, the failure by the then AIADMK government to release water in advance from Chembarambakkam reservoir devastated Chennai. Why was the damage extensive now even though your government launched flood-control measures since assuming office in May 2021? What are the lessons the government has learnt?

In 2015, officials waited for days to get Chief Minister Jayalalithaa’s permission to release water from Chembarambakkam reservoir. But we released water in a phased manner and were prepared to face the situation. Still, the unprecedented spell of rain caused the flood. Let me recall that S. Janakarajan, former officiating director of Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), had said 2015 was a man-made disaster. But Cyclone Michaung brought 530 mm rain in 36 hours leading to severe flooding and damage. Cyclone Michaung was 100 km away from Chennai and stayed there for 16 hours. It moved between eight to 10 km per hour. It caused incessant rain unprecedented in the past 47 years and the third heaviest rainfall in 177 years. Since the sea tide was very high, it could not receive the water discharged. When DMK Parliamentary Party leader T.R. Baalu submitted a letter requesting flood relief to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the latter echoed our views.

Tamil Nadu is the only State that launched a Climate Change Mission and constituted a special committee. We have renamed the government department as Department of Environment and Climate Change. No other State has given so much attention to the issue.

We have to evolve schemes keeping in mind the density of population, rain, cyclones, capacity of stormwater system, deltas, sea level, global warming. I have reiterated on many occasions that climate change is going to be the biggest challenge.

Did unregulated real estate development in suburban areas aggravate the floods?

The AIADMK government did not implement any project properly between 2011 and 2021. We are paying the price for it. We constituted a committee headed by retired IAS officer Thiruppugazh and are implementing projects as per its recommendation.

There is a view that the government machinery works aggressively during a cyclone but it is followed by a sluggish attitude. Can’t you monitor the situation throughout the year?

There is no let-up in the government’s activities. You study the stormwater drain projects implemented by the DMK government after it came to power in May 2021. Our work mitigated the damage and we will complete the rest of the work. We will launch new projects in the next phase. By evolving new schemes and projects, we will keep pace with the increase in population and the expansion of Chennai city.

SC asks Indian national named in Pannun plot to move Czech court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday termed allegations of an Indian national about his arrest at Prague airport in June, his solitary confinement in a Czech prison, and the looming prospect of extradition in connection with charges of plotting to kill U.S.-based Khalistani activist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun an “extremely sensitive matter for the Ministry of External Affairs, or for that matter, any Ministry of the government”.

A petition filed by a family member of the national, which came up before a Bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna, has urged the sourt to direct the Ministries of External Affairs and Home to intervene in the extradition proceedings pending before a court in Prague, Czech Republic, and ensure that their relative gets a “fair and transparent trial”. The identity of the person, represented by senior advocate C.A. Sundaram and Rohini Musa, has been kept anonymous in the petition. He has been identified simply as “Mr. X” in the causetitle of the case. Media reports named the individual as “Nikhil Gupta”.

“The circumstances surrounding his arrest were marked by irregularities, with no formal arrest warrant presented, and the apprehension executed by self-claimed U.S. agents rather than local Czech authorities. He has suffered over 100 days of solitary confinement. He found himself in the custody of individuals purporting to represent U.S. interests. He, a devout Hindu and vegetarian, was subjected to forced consumption of beef and pork during his detention in Czech custody, a direct violation of his religious beliefs. He was denied consular access, the right to contact his family in India, and the freedom to seek legal representation,” the petition said.

Mr. Sundaram said the case against his client in Prague has transformed into a “diplomatic and political quagmire between India and the United States”. He described the man as a “hapless victim caught in the crossfire”. He pleaded for the court’s intervention to “navigate this intricate web of international relations and secure his rights”.

Justice Khanna advised Mr. Sundaram to approach the Prague court. “If there is any violation taking place... If you feel your rights have been breached, you have to go to the court concerned there,” he told the senior lawyer.

Mr. Sundaram said he was not at loggerheads with the idea of approaching the Czech court. However, he said that his client’s relative was an Indian national and was well within his rights to expect the Indian government to safeguard his interests.

Justice Khanna said the man had already approached the Delhi High Court and he was “capable of taking care”. Mr. Sundaram insisted the man was not “capable of taking care” of the events happening around him in a foreign country.

“This is an extremely sensitive matter for the MEA or for that matter any Ministry of the government. It is for them to decide... You have already gone to the High Court,” Justice Khanna said.

SC refuses to stay survey of Shahi Idgah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to stay an Allahabad High Court order allowing a court-monitored survey of the Shahi Idgah adjoining the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple in Mathura.

A Bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna said it should not be expected to order a stay on the strength of an oral plea. The Bench asked the Committee of Management Trust Shahi Masjid Idgah to challenge the High Court decision by filing a proper appeal.

“How can we stay an order which is not before us? You challenge the order, then we will see...” Justice Khanna told senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the committee.

Mr. Ahmadi said the High Court order was uploaded late on Thursday evening and hence they could not file an appeal.

High Court order

The High Court had on Thursday allowed a court-monitored survey of the Shahi Idgah and agreed to the appointment of an advocate commissioner to oversee the survey of the mosque premises.

The apex court went on further to defer to January 9 a case filed by the committee challenging another order of the High Court on May 26 order, transferring to itself all matters related to the dispute pending before a Mathura court.

On November 10, the top court had refused to stay the proceedings before the High Court on suits related to the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute, saying it would not be appropriate for it to interfere with the High Court order without hearing both sides.

In Mathura, Bal Krishna through Hindu Sena chief Vishnu Gupta and others had filed a suit in the court of Civil Judge Senior Division (III) for shifting of the Shahi Masjid Idgah, which they claim was constructed on a part of the 13.37 acre land of the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi Trust.

Uttar Pradesh BJP MLA Ramdular Gond gets 25 years in jail in rape case; likely to lose Assembly seat

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

A Sonbhadra court in Uttar Pradesh sentenced the Bhartiya Janata Party MLA from Duddhi Assembly segment, Ramdular Gond, to 25 years imprisonment for raping a minor girl. It directed him to pay a fine of ₹10 lakh, which will be handed over to the victim.

The MLA was convicted on December 12 under Sections 506 (criminal intimidation) and 376 (sexual assault/rape) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POSCO).

He faces the prospect of losing his Assembly seat since the Supreme Court had ruled in 2013 that an MP or an MLA ceases to be an elected representative once he is sentenced to a minimum of two years in jail.

2014 case

The case dates back to November 4, 2014, when the victim’s brother lodged a police complaint in Sonbhadra district alleging that Gond had raped the minor girl and threatened her with dire consequences if she reported the crime.

The district police filed a chargesheet after a probe. In January 2023, the Additional Sessions Court issued an arrest warrant against the MLA as he failed to appear in the court. Gond belongs to the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community and won the 2022 Assembly election from Duddhi by a huge margin. The Duddhi constituency is one of five Assembly seats under the Robertsganj Lok Sabha constituency and is reserved for candidates of ST community.

Pannun issue can cause ‘serious damage’ to ties if not addressed: U.S. lawmakers

Sriram Lakshman

A group of influential U.S. Democratic lawmakers, who are supporters of the India-U.S. relationship, have said that bilateral ties could face “serious damage” if the U.S. attorney’s allegations against an unnamed Indian official and Indian citizen Nikhil Gupta in a murder-for-hire plot were not addressed.

The lawmakers describe the allegations as deeply concerning and welcome the launch of investigation by the Indian government. AP

An indictment from the Southern District of New York on November 29 alleged that these individuals had plotted to kill Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a U.S. citizen, in New York earlier this year.

The lawmakers described the allegations as “deeply concerning” as they stated that their top priority was the safety of their constituents.

“We believe the U.S.-India partnership has made meaningful impact on the lives of both of our people, but we are concerned that the actions outlined in the indictment could, if not appropriately addressed, cause significant damage to this very consequential partnership,” the members of the Congress said in a statement on Friday, after receiving a classified briefing on the case on Wednesday.

New Delhi has launched a probe into the matter, which the lawmakers welcomed.

The signatories of the Congressional statement were Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna, Raja Krishnamoorthi and Shri Thanedar. Mr. Khanna is a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans. Mr. Bera is the ranking member of a House of Representatives subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific. All the signatories are active in India-U.S. related initiatives.

While one of the accused, Mr. Gupta, has garnered much attention having been arrested in Prague and facing extradition to the U.S., less is known about the other accused, an unnamed Indian government official, described as ‘CC-1’ in the indictment.

Friday’s statement calls for government officials to also be held to account. “... It is critical that India fully investigate, hold those responsible, including Indian government officials, accountable, and provide assurances that this will not happen again,” the statement said.

TAMIL NADU POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)
(AN ISO 9001 - 2015 CERTIFIED COMPANY)
South Circle, Madurai - 625 014.
email id: spndengrsc.tnphcl@tn.gov.in Phone: 0452-2903019

e-Tender Invitation for Bid No: 48 / 2023-2024 Date: 12.12.2023

Name of Work	Approximate value of work in Lakhs (2023-2024)
For Setting up of High Security Prison at SURIYUR VILLAGE, THIRUVERUMBUR TALUK IN TRICHY DISTRICT 1) Construction of Central Tower Block, Hospital, Kitchen, Cell Block, EB Room, Arms Room, Court, Test Identification, Remission, Dormitory, Watch Tower and De-Radicalization Centre **(Gr.II)**	Rs.2451.57 + GST @ 18%
2) Construction of Administrative Block, Compound walls (1.8m, 5.5m, 6.5m height) **(Gr-I)**	Rs.2283.69 + GST @ 18%
3) Construction of 70 Nos. of Residential quarters **(Gr-III)**	Rs.1410.99 + GST @ 18%

1) For Tender document, visit **https://tntenders.gov.in**
2) Downloading and submission the tender documents: **04.01.2024 - 12.00 Noon to 22.01.2024** upto **06.00 P.M**
3) Date and time of opening of the e-tender : **24.01.2024** at **11.15 A.M**
4) For Tender Notice visit **www.tnphc.com & www.tnpolice.gov.in**

DIPR/ 6650 /TENDER/2023

Superintending Engineer, South Circle, TNPHC Ltd

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, ELECTRICAL CIRCLE (R&B), NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR
E-mail : seec.bbsr2010@gmail.com
Bid Identification No.S.E.E.C (R&B) 23/2023-24 No. 2694 / Date 11.12.2023

The Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B), Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system for E.I.Works as detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approximate Estimated cost put to Tender (Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document	Bid Security	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion.
1.	Construction of 11KV UG Line & 2xl MVA, 11/0.4 KV Plinth mounted sub-station for power supply to proposed 1109 KVA Load in Prasasan Bhawan, Jajpur.	Rs.1,31,30,747.00 (Excluding GST)	Rs.10,000/- (Online)	Rs.1,31,307/- (Online)	HT	3 (Three) Calendar Months
2.	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of IP based CCTV System for New District Court Complex at Malkangiri during 2023-24.	Rs.71,05,644.00 (Excluding GST)	Rs.10,000/- (Online)	Rs.71,056/- (Online)	Specialized agency with associate electrical contractor having valid license from ELBO.	2 (Two) Calendar Months
3.	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of CCTV (IP Camera) at District Court Building, Boudh.	Rs.1,11,17,628.00 (Excluding GST)	Rs.10,000/- (Online)	Rs.1,11,176/- (Online)	Specialized agency with associate electrical contractor having valid license from ELBO.	2 (Two) Calendar Months

Date & Time of available of bid document in the portal online :- from Dt.19.12.2023 at 05.00 P.M. to dt. 02.01.2024 up to 05.00 P.M. Date of Opening :- dt.03.01.2024 at 11.30 A.M. Name and address of officer inviting Bid:- Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B), Odisha, BBSR. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal :- https://tendersodisha.gov.in.

B-1445:

Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, BBSR.
OIPR-34006/11/0031/2324

Govt. of ODISHA - Department of Water Resources
OFFICE OF the ADDITIONAL CHIEF Engineer, Drainage CIRCLE, CUTTACK, GANDARPUR-753003
e-procurement Notice No. ACEDC-CTC-07/2023-24
email Id :- sedrainagecirclectc@gmail.com

1.	Name of Works	:	1. Renovation of Jaripada Patasunderpur D/C Including its link drains under Kantapada Block(from RD 00KM TO 16.99 KM) 2. Improvement to Thanagalijore Drainage Channel & its 4 nos. link drains of Banki Block in Cuttack District. 3. Improvement to Kiakoeli Drainage Channel & its link drain of Athagarh Block in Cuttack District 4. Renovation of Charigaon Tanarapat Drainage Cut Of Gobari Drainage System (DOAB NO-II).
2.	Total number of Works	:	04 nos.
3.	Bid Identification No.	:	1. ACEDC-CTC /DD-CTC-17/2023-24; 2. ACEDC-CTC/DD-CTC -18/2023-24; 3. ACEDC-CTC /DD-CTC-19/2023-24; 4. ACEDC-CTC/DD-KPD-20/2023-24.
4.	Estimated Cost	:	1. Rs. 501.16 Lakhs ; 2. Rs. 421.33 Lakhs ; 3. Rs. 217.92 Lakhs ; 4. Rs. 117.68 Lakhs.
5.	Period of Completion	:	SL NO. 1 & 2 -18 (Eighteen) Calendar months. SL NO. 3 & 4 - 12 (TWELVE) Calendar months.
6.	Availability of Tender On-Line	:	From 22.12.2023 at 11.30 Hours to 08.01.2024 upto 17.30 Hours.
7.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid.	:	09.01.2024 at 11.00 Hours in the O/o the Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Cuttack.
8.	Class of Contractor	:	1."A" Class ; 2."A" Class ; 3."B" & "A" Class ; 4."B" & "A" Class .
9.	EMD required	:	As per DTCN.
10.	Cost of Tender Paper	:	Rs.10,000/-
11.	Procurement Officer	:	Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Gandarpur Cuttack -753003.

Tender will be accepted if registered in the CDMS Portal . Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Addendum / Corrigendum/ Cancellation if any required will be published only in Govt. web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in

A-999 :

Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Cuttack.
OIPR-32518/11/0007/2324

INBRIEF

SC stays proceedings against Surjewala in 23-year-old case

The Supreme Court has stayed the proceedings against Congress leader Randeep Surjewala in a Varanasi court in a 23-year-old case of damaging public property. A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud issued notice to Uttar Pradesh on Friday. Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for Mr. Surjewala, said it was a "political case". The case dates back to 2000 when Mr. Surjewala, then national president of the Youth Congress, was charged with creating a ruckus while protesting against the alleged false implication of Congress leaders in Samvasini scandal at Varanasi. In November, the top court stayed the non-bailable warrant issued against him in the case. The Bench listed the case on January 8.

Decide Sena camps' pleas by Jan. 10: SC to Rahul Narwekar

The Supreme Court on Friday gave the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker, Rahul Narwekar, till January 10 to deliver his judgment on disqualification petitions filed by the rival Shiv Sena factions of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Uddhav Thackeray. On October 30, the Supreme Court had given Mr. Narwekar time till December 31. Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Speaker, said the disqualification proceedings would wrap up on December 20 and be reserved for judgment. He said the records spanned over 2.71 lakh pages, the respondents numbered 133 and there were 53 MLAs involved.

Virtual mobile number app Doosra told to halt operation

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued an order, essentially halting the operations of Doosra app completely.

Doosra sells secondary mobile numbers to users to hand out at shops or online platforms, where providing a number is mandatory but may leave people open to spam messages or calls.

The firm requires users to provide ID documents to buy a "virtual mobile number", just like a telecom firm would.

Describing the app, Aditya Vuchi, the founder, has said that it is useful for customers who are forced to give out their phone number for making a purchase, or for women who don't want to hand out contact information to strangers. Virtual numbers are used by firms like Amazon and Uber when delivery agents or drivers call customers.

Doosra's product is a virtual SMS inbox that filters out spam messages, while only allowing some incoming calls. It is unclear why the DoT has ordered the firm's operations to stop.

A spokesperson for Vodafone Idea Ltd said the hold on Doosra's services by the DoT was valid "until further orders".

CJI seeks report from Allahabad HC on woman judge's plaint

The judge said she was sexually harassed by a district judge and his associates in Uttar Pradesh but was denied fair hearing on her complaint

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The judge said that she had complained to the Chief Justice of the Allahabad HC and Administrative Judge but to no avail. GETTY IMAGES

Chief Justice India D.Y. Chandrachud has sought a report from the Allahabad High Court after a woman judge from Uttar Pradesh wrote an open letter to him, saying she has suffered the "personal humiliation" of being denied a fair hearing on her complaint of sexual harassment at workplace and has lost her will to live. The woman judge said she was sexually harassed by a district judge and his associates.

She said, in the letter circulated on social media, that she had complained to the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court and Administrative Judge, but to no avail. The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) of the High Court took six months and "a thousand emails" to even start an inquiry into her complaint filed in July. The woman judge called the inquiry "a farce and a sham" in which the witnesses were the subordinates of the district judge in question. Her plea to the ICC to transfer the district judge during the pendency of the inquiry was not allowed. She said the High Court, on the judicial side, had already given a finding that the evidence in the case was tampered with.

Dismissed in 8 seconds

She said the Supreme Court at least should have heard her case. However, the top court dismissed her case in "eight seconds".

The case had come up before a Bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and Sandeep Mehta on December 13. The Bench had dismissed her petition, observing in its order that the ICC was "already in seisin of the case and a resolution is already passed which is pending approval of the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court".

"I felt like my life, my dignity and my soul have been DISMISSED. It felt like a personal humiliation," the open letter read.

"The enquiry will now be conducted with the district judge in control of all the witnesses. What justice will I give to others when I am myself hopeless? I have no will to live anymore. I have been rendered into a walking corpse in the last year-and-half," the letter said.

(Those in distress may contact Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health suicide prevention helpline 011-40769002)

Help violence victims celebrate Christmas, SC tells Manipur govt.

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Manipur government to help victims of violence living in relief camps across the State to ring in Christmas, a festival of sharing and forgiveness.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Manipur, initially sounded apprehensive, wondering if religious celebrations associated with one particular community may trigger a law and order problem which may reopen the wounds of months of ethnic violence and bloodshed in the State.

Mr. Mehta said the State had helped celebrate Deepavali without anybody inviting an order from the Supreme court.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, who sought the court's intervention with the State to make arrangements for the safe observance of Christmas, had said his intention in making the request was not to sensationalise.

The hearing had begun with Mr. Ahmadi telling the court that "Christmas was in the offing" and the State ought to make "arrangements for the people to congregate". Mr. Mehta, in turn, had advised caution.

During the hearing, senior advocate Vibha Makhija, appearing for the Justice Gita Mittal Committee appointed by the court to be its eyes, ears and hands in monitoring the rehabilitation of the State, confirmed that "religious, non-religious buildings have suffered damage".

In the hearing, the court directed the State to submit to the committee in two weeks a comprehensive list identifying religious structures of all faiths which were damaged or destroyed in the violence. The Bench said the State should further apprise the committee of the steps taken to secure these places of worship.

19 laid to rest in mass burial in Kangpokpi

The last rites of 19 people, including a seven-year-old boy, belonging to the Kuki-Zo community who were killed during the ethnic conflict in May, were performed in Kangpokpi district of Manipur on Friday. The burial was organised by the Committee on Tribal Unity. The 19 bodies were among the 60 that were airlifted from two morgues in Imphal on Thursday.

Netflix stops streaming uncut Indian films globally

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Netflix has fully stopped streaming uncensored versions of Indian films around the world, according to a review of films released this year.

The change in policy is significant for what was possibly the last streaming service in India that continued to show versions of Indian films before they went through the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), which has increasingly been removing political references, particularly those that are disparaging to the dispensation in power, from films.

The film *Bheed*, set in the pandemic, had voiceovers of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, as well as a host of other political references, a copy of the list of cuts from the censor board shows. These references were heavily edited at the CBFC's behest. Netflix chose to stream this version globally, instead of the version that the filmmakers had prepared. Now, that template is being applied to all Indian films, even in ways that go against Netflix's internal policy on some forms of censorship.

Films like *Leo*, starring actor Vijay, have been censored globally on Netflix, even though the film was released uncut in overseas markets. *OMG 2*, a film about sex education that was censored to remove depictions of actor Akshay Kumar as the Hindu deity Shiva even after being given an 'A' rating, was also released censored, leading the film's director to complain about Netflix's decision in interviews with entertainment publications.

Other streaming services have, with exceptions for the odd title, been doing this for a while. Netflix's move to this practice effectively hands the censor board indirect powers over what Indians see in films anywhere, even online, though its mandate is limited to cinemas and TV.

Films like *Leo* have been censored globally on Netflix.

On top of shielding the public from political references, it has also been applying censorship on references to prominent business personalities: the film *Japan*, for instance, has a scene mentioning "Ambani [and] Adani", which the CBFC removed. Netflix is streaming the version without the names mentioned. Netflix and other streaming services have reportedly been applying intense socio-political scrutiny on original series that they commission. These practices are likely a result of the fear of online mobs and police action for any politically outspoken content: the Screenwriters Association said in a statement that streaming services and the film industry have forced writers, in signed agreements, to "indemnify producers if there is a socio-political backlash" to their work. Amazon Prime Video's head of originals, Aparna Purohit, had to face police summons after the 2021 political series *Tandav*, and had to issue an apology and received a stay on action against her in the Supreme Court.

But licensed content has escaped such similar scrutiny, as most films go through the censor board, which is run by the Union government. The Cinematograph Act and the IT Rules, 2021, which govern cinemas and streaming services, do not explicitly require streaming services to run the CBFC cut of a film online, but many OTT platforms do not take the risk of doing so. Netflix has been an exception.

Netflix chose to not respond to pointed queries on its changing censorship practices. "We have an incredibly broad range of Indian original films and TV shows, all of which speak to our long standing support for creative expression," the company said in a statement to *The Hindu*. "This diversity not only reflects our members' very different tastes, it also distinguishes our service from the competition."

The company had provided an identical statement to *The Washington Post* when it did a story on Netflix and Amazon's content policies in India.

Centre tells airports to curb expansion of retail outlets

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a set of guiding principles established by the government, airports have been advised to curb the proliferation of retail outlets and lounges at airports if these impact their capacity to handle passengers.

The Civil Aviation Ministry has also told airports to ensure that the retail shops do not obstruct the movement of passengers.

Terminal buildings are often designed to force travellers to walk past duty-free outlets and other shops from the security-check area to the boarding gates, instead of giving them access to a clear passage.

The waiting lounges, shops, and office spaces have been demolished at Delhi and Mumbai airports since last winter to facilitate passenger movement, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said, addressing a press conference on Friday.

Digi Yatra gates have been installed at 13 airports.

Congestion prevention

These are among the measures that airports were told to adopt to deal with congestion during peak travel seasons and come after the stampede-like situations witnessed across major airports last December.

Another step that has been taken is the enhancement of airport infrastructure. For instance, the number of entry lanes at passenger terminals has risen to 312 across 16 airports, recording 46% growth over the last year. The number of check-in counters and immigration counters has each gone up by 24% over the same period, while the stock of X-ray machines has risen by 37%. The workforce of the Central Industrial Security Force deployed at airports has also grown 21%, from 20,487 to 24,733 personnel.

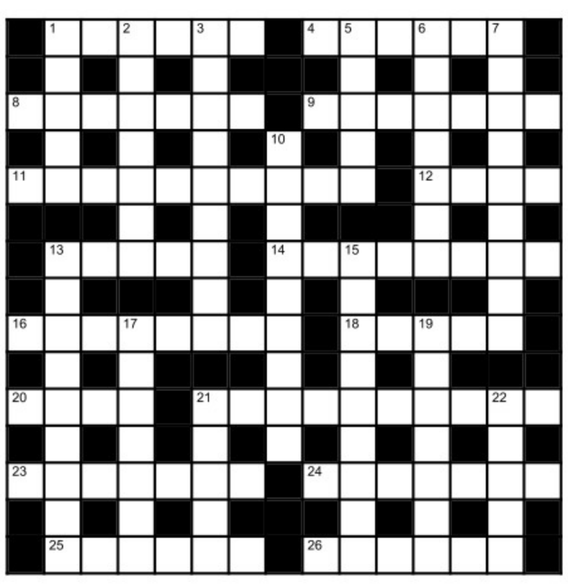
Digi Yatra gates, which enable passengers to scan their faces and barcoded e-tickets to enter passenger terminals and the pre-embarkation security check area, have been installed at 13 airports, with 25 more airports expected to deploy them next year.

TH CROSSWORD + 14047

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Partner collapsed, down after losing margins (6)
4 Say, Republicans invite everyone to run (6)
8 In sleep, police officer laughs intermittently and meanders (7)
9 Chased learner for top cents and hoarded (7)
11 Moonset seen in rarest broadcast by scientist (10)
12 Enthusiastic Indian natives trade onions from sources (4)
13 Covers trials (5)
14 Plane in Africa crashes over border of Rwanda, tragic at the outset (8)
16 Hints cutting sugar by 40%, gets dizzy and has a lick of sugar (8)
18 Retired officer meeting criminal at bar (5)
20 Guest unimpressed, conceals shock (4)
21 Anxious husband trespasses bending steel bars (10)
23 Leave for ashram... (7)
24 ...disguised as sad divorcee losing independence (7)
25 Perhaps one of you, will give nothing away for gaining one metal (6)
26 Like Peru, Ecuador has original talking point (6)

Down

1 If, upset lady enters inside, Messi often takes off (5)
2 At the end guileful magicians lose weight and become reptiles (7)
3 Newspaper is getting manuscripts on cells (9)
5 Agent lost his head with performer (5)
6 Lady Curie fissioned without potassium and became more successful (7)
7 Productive and fast after pressure, I almost complete (9)
10 Assemblies reconvened to expel Luxembourg delegations (9)
13 Noblemen besiege the French without end (9)
15 Jubilation in house with kin (9)
17 Sheila reneges in retreat constraining senior officer (7)
19 Institution is firm on learners league is evenly represented (7)
21 Somehow able to skirt zone of fire (5)
22 Sri Lanka - Spain, top players over time to be rested (5)

SUDOKU

	8	2		1		7		
			9			4	2	
5					8			
			3		1		8	
9				6				1
	1		8		9			
			6					2
	6	1			3			
		9		2		6	3	

No.SS6009 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

W	I	C	K	E	D	S	I	M
I	E	G	■	■	■	L	E	R
L	Y	I	N	G	■	C	O	L
D	■	L	S	■	O	U	■	T
L	A	I	D	■	E	N	D	S
I	■	N	S	■	G	■	T	■
F	I	G	H	T	E	R	■	R
E	S	■	R	A	■	A	I	■
■	■	■	C	U	R	T	■	T
A	■	D	■	C	■	U	I	■
T	R	E	A	T	■	L	I	O
T	■	E	■	U	A	■	N	■
A	P	P	A	R	A	T	U	S
C	■	E	■	A	■	E	■	■
H	A	R	M	L	E	S	S	■

P	L	E	S	T	■	■	■	■
E	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
C	T	O	R	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
N	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	4	6	2	8	7	5	1	3
5	2	1	6	3	4	8	9	7
7	3	8	9	1	5	4	2	6
6	7	5	3	2	8	1	4	9
8	1	4	5	9	6	7	3	2
3	9	2	7	4	1	6	5	8
2	6	7	4	5	9	3	8	1
4	8	9	1	6	3	2	7	5
1	5	3	8	7	2	9	6	4

FAITH

Significance of *Thiruppavai*

Andal's *Thiruppavai* is recited in Margazhi because of the sacredness of the month. But *Thiruppavai* is so full of Vishishtadvaitic thoughts that it must be read throughout the year. In the first verse, Andal says Krishna's face is like the sun and the moon, said T.N. Aravamudachariar in a discourse. This seems contradictory, because the sun is associated with heat and the moon with coolness. The Lord is kindness personified to His devotees. But He is an avenging God to those who torment His bhaktas.

Vedanta Desika elaborates on this idea in *Kamasikashtakam*, when he uses the words – "satA patala bheeshaNe." Here, he describes the Lord's mercy in His Narasimha avatara. He is full of fury, because of Hiranyakasipu's cruelty to Prahlada. But when His eyes alight on Prahlada, His karunya flows from them. Andal says that Krishna's foster father Nandagopa held a sharpened spear to protect his son, because Krishna faced many dangers in infancy. Such love and concern for the Lord is evident in the case of the Azhvars also. Periyazhvar, who was fully cognisant of Lord Narayana's Supremacy, got carried away when he saw the Lord on Garuda. What a magnificent spectacle it was! What if someone were to cast evil eyes on this Lord? And so, in a spontaneous outburst of love, he sang the *pallandu* verses, praying that He be protected from evil eyes.

INBRIEF

India-U.K. FTA talks on last leg, says Commerce Secretary

Negotiations for the India-U.K. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) are on the last leg and being fast-tracked to resolve the few sticky issues that remain, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said on Friday. "Both the teams are partly negotiating physically and over video-conferencing as well on a fast-track basis so that the last leg complex issues can be resolved and differences ironed out," he noted, stressing while timelines were in place, there were no deadlines set.

MSC arm to buy ₹247-cr. stake in Adani Ennore Container

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. (APSEZ) said it had entered into a second pact with Terminal Investment Ltd. (TiL), the container terminal operating and investing arm of container shipping line Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) for the operation of Adani Ennore Container Terminal Pvt. Ltd. (AECTPL). Under the agreement, TiL, via its wholly owned Mundi Ltd., would buy 49% stake in AECTPL from APSEZ for ₹247 crore.

Sterling and Wilson Renewable raises ₹1,500 crore via QIP

Sterling and Wilson Renewable Energy. Ltd. (SWRE), 40% owned by Reliance Industries Ltd.'s subsidiary Reliance New Energy, has raised ₹1,500 crore through the Qualified Institution Placement (QIP) route. "Bulk of the proceeds will be used to pare down debt, providing us capital to pursue the fast-growing solar EPC markets in India and abroad," said Amit Jain, Global CEO. "The unexecuted order book as of September 30, continues to remain healthy at ₹6,835 crore."

Exports shrink again, trade deficit narrows as imports fall faster

Govt. lowers Oct. import bill by $1.6 bn paring month's deficit to $29.91 bn; Nov. exports contract 2.83%, but imports decline by a sharper 4.33%

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's goods exports slipped back into contraction, dropping 2.83% in November to $33.9 billion, while imports fell by a sharper 4.33% to $54.48 billion.

Exports had recorded only their second uptick this year in October, and though the value of outbound shipments was up 1.1% on a month-on-month basis, they still marked the second-weakest level since November 2022.

The trade deficit for November narrowed sharply beyond expectations to $20.58 billion, from the all-time high of $29.91 billion recorded in October. November's trade deficit was 6.7% narrower on a year-on-year basis, and 31.2% less than October's tally.

The originally estimated deficit of $31.5 billion for October was revised downward thanks to a $1.6 billion correction from the initially released import estimate of $65.03 billion.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal asserted that 'trade is not one-way traffic and should be seen in a global context'. "GDP growth is not high in many countries and interest rates have not gone down. Although global trade is suffering, we are holding fort and our exports have beaten the global trends in 2023 by a significant margin.

"The green shoots we saw in the last couple of months have stabilised. Exports have been positive in November and higher than the overall exports of the same month last year," he said, referring to the total tally of merchandise exports and estimated services exports last month.

While the actual services exports numbers will be available later, the Commerce Ministry pegged November's intangible exports at $28.69 billion, 6.5% above last year, to put cumulative exports for the month at $62.6 billion, 1.2% higher than in the year-earlier period.

'Narrower deficit'

"India's merchandise trade deficit unexpectedly shrunk in November, with a better-than-expected performance of exports resulting in a narrower deficit than our projection of $23.5 billion," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at the credit rating major ICRA. Ms. Nayar expects the monthly trade deficit to hover in the range of $20 billion to 25 billion through the rest of 2023-24.

Between April and November, merchandise exports are now 6.5% lower at $278.8 billion, while imports have dropped 8.7% to $445.15 billion. At $166.35 billion, the trade deficit so far this fiscal is 12.1% narrower than in the same period last year when several commodity prices had shot up after the conflict in Ukraine.

Officials reiterated that though the volumes of many major export goods had increased this year, their value had reduced due to the dip in global prices.

Surprise drop

Nov. trade deficit narrows beyond expectations to $20.58 bn after the decline in imports outpaces the contraction in exports

- November's trade deficit is 6.7% narrower on a year-on-year basis and 31.2% less than October's tally
- Trade deficit this fiscal 12.1% narrower than in same period last fiscal when commodity prices shot up

- Commerce Secretary Barthwal asserts trade is not one-way traffic and should be seen in a global context

'G7 Russian diamond curbs won't hurt us'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government is confident that G7 nations' move to block the entry of Russian diamonds into their markets will minimally disrupt India's diamond processing businesses as a solution is in sight, top trade officials said on Friday.

As per a plan conveyed by the G7 bloc, all Russian diamonds of one carat and above will not be accepted into their countries from March 1, 2024, and the curbs will be expanded to diamonds of half a carat or lower from September with traceability systems to be put in place.

Stating that India was in touch with the EU and G7's technical teams, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that rough Russian diamonds were generally small and those cut and polished by India were of less than 0.5 carats, so the impact of the curbs would be less than initially anticipated. "We should be able to export our diamonds without disturbing the proposed sanctions on Russia," he said.

"They also understand we are an important player because we polish 90-95% of the diamonds of the world, and if there's an issue with us, the entire industry suffers," said another official, noting that India's interventions had led to some fine-tuning in the G7's plans.

Sensex extends climb by 2.4% to fresh peak

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Stocks soared, riding on a global rally post the U.S. Fed's dovish pivot and on robust buying momentum

Indian benchmark stock indices on Friday soared to fresh all-time highs riding on a continued global rally post the U.S. Federal Reserve's dovish pivot and robust buying momentum.

Led by technology stocks the S&P BSE Sensex surged 2.37%, or 969.55 points, to 71,438.95, a record high. The top Sensex gainers included HCL Tech up 5.58%, Tata Consultancy Services (5.28%), Infosys (5.20%), State Bank of India (3.99%) and Tata Steel (3.33%).

The NSE Nifty-50 index too gained 1.29%, or 273.95 points, to 21,456.65, also a record high.

"The Indian market ended higher on Friday, tracking firm cues from global markets on expectations of a lenient monetary policy from the U.S. Federal Reserve," said Avdhut Bagkar, Technical and Derivatives Analyst, StoxBox.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	71,484	1.37
US Dollar	83.03	0.32
Gold	63,100	0.24
Brent oil	76.08	-1.04

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2991.80	97.75
Adani Ports	1078.55	3.85
Apollo Hosp	5551.20	35.30
Asian Paints	3313.90	72.55
Axis Bank	1120.35	-0.10
Bajaj Auto	6275.20	-59.65
Bajaj Finserv	1733.15	2.20
Bajaj Finance	7515.05	40.85
Bharti Airtel	992.55	-12.65
BPCL	449.00	3.30
Britannia Ind	4913.90	-32.75
Cipla	1207.10	2.45
Coal India	350.00	2.40
Divis Lab	3697.05	13.85
Dr Reddys Lab	5589.45	16.10
Eicher Motors	4059.90	-26.25
Grasim Ind	2127.70	23.80
HCL Tech	1491.30	76.70
HDFC Bank	1656.55	6.40
HDFC Life	673.10	-11.45
Hero MotoCorp	3896.55	12.90
Hindalco	557.25	14.15
Hind Unilever	2522.90	6.55
ICICI Bank	1037.40	3.75
IndusInd Bank	1570.80	19.10
Infosys	1578.40	76.95
ITC	458.20	-1.90
JSW Steel	867.20	19.80
Kotak Bank	1850.60	-3.25
L&T	3488.00	54.90
LTIMindtree Ltd.	6129.30	185.00
M&M	1724.95	21.40
Maruti Suzuki	10286.40	-66.80
NestleIndia	24366.40	-426.90
NTPC	305.10	9.70
ONGC	201.05	5.10
PowerGrid Corp	237.35	5.25
Reliance Ind	2495.60	31.45
SBI Life	1452.50	-17.35
State Bank	648.25	24.60
Sun Pharma	1235.75	4.45
TataConsumerProduct	954.70	4.25
Tata Motors	732.40	12.65
Tata Steel	136.45	4.45
TCS	3861.00	193.75
Tech Mahindra	1306.10	41.40
Titan	3600.55	9.15
UltraTech Cement	10029.45	66.15
UPL	610.85	11.70
Wipro	446.55	12.15

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 15

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.80	83.12
Euro	90.79	91.14
British Pound	105.89	106.30
Japanese Yen (100)	58.50	58.72
Chinese Yuan	11.65	11.69
Swiss Franc	95.54	95.91
Singapore Dollar	62.31	62.56
Canadian Dollar	61.91	62.15
Malaysian Ringitt	17.73	17.81
Australian Dollar	55.68	55.90

Source:Indian Bank

'Ambitious coal transport plans may test Railways'

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Indian Railways' plan to raise the quantum of coal to be transported by rail by at least 400 million tonne (mt) in the next eight years face congestion and logistical challenges, the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) said in a report.

Power play: Railways has to get its act together to boost coal stocks in plants in the backdrop of rising energy needs. THE HINDU

Freight corridor impact

Despite commissioning the entire Sonnagar to Dadri section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) in June, which is expected to move coal at up to 35 km per hour (kmph), compared with 15 kmph earlier, coal stocks at many northern power plants slid considerably until mid-October, the Central Electricity Authority's daily coal reports between August 1 and October 17 show.

"Since then (to early December), stocks at northwestern power plants have certainly risen, but coal consumption at the plants have also fallen so the effects of EDFC have yet to be fully tested."

The Traffic, Transportation and Business Research (TT&BR) unit of the Railways, has estimated in a study that the Railways' annual coal transportation capacity had to double to 1,200 mt by 2030 from 660 mt currently, to meet the growing energy demand.

Coal India Ltd. is likely to be the largest contributor to new coal production and is planning to move an additional 400 mt by rail in just four years. IEEFA notes this timeline seems unrealistic since almost all the extra 91 mt the CIL has mined in the last two years were moved by trucks and not rail. CIL reports six lakh truck movements each month. "Meeting targets would require rapid reversal of this trend."

While Indian Railways devotes planning and engineering resources to coal evacuation projects, on major routes, track-renewal activities take a hit.

Freight vs. passenger

The IEEFA recalled the coal supply crisis in May 2022 when up to 1,900 passenger trains were cancelled to prioritise coal movement. This when the National Rail Plan forecast a 46% rise in the number of non-suburban passengers carried daily, from 13 million in 2021 to 19 million in 2031. This could pose a substantial double burden on the railway network of expanding freight and passenger capacities.

Coal transport from mine to power plant will remain the weakest link in the coal chain in the immediate future.

"Even as stocks in plants declined, at the end of August, CIL and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) reported having 48.92 mt of vendible stock on hand, far more than required to maintain power plant stocks had the Indian Railways been able to transport it," IEEFA points out.

Focus on speed

Non-suburban trains are at their slowest speeds since 2015, signifying the return of rail network congestion, a chronic problem that will only be exacerbated if coal freight is more than doubled. While average speed of passenger trains had approached 60 km/hr in 2020, when the pandemic led to the cancellation of most passenger services, by September 2023, the average speed dropped to 38.6 km/hr – the lowest monthly average reported by the Indian Railways since at least June 2015, said the IEEFA referring to the Indian Railways Monthly Evaluation Reports from January 2019 to September 2023.

"National Rail Plan's preferred scenario assumes freight speeds will increase from 25 km/hr to 50 km/hr by 2051, with a 30 km/hr goal by 2026. Keeping these plans on track require rapid reversal of current trend," observes the institute.

Renewable energy projects should be prioritised and incentivised in regions where thermal power plants are far away from India's coal mines, the IEEFA recommends in its report.

Precision unveils password manager

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Precision Biometric has introduced a device for individuals that eliminates the need to remember different types of passwords for secured login to work, banking, social media and other websites or multiple devices from home or office browser applications.

"Called as InnaITkey Password Manager, it is easy to install and provides enhanced digital security for the users," Precision Group CEO Mathew Chacko told reporters.

The portable device uses biometric authentication and public key infrastructure. It can generate passwords up to 64 characters. Military-grade cryptography is used to secure users' credentials. Currently, it works on PCs, tablets and laptops. Very soon, mobile devices would be added to the list, he said.

Allaying fears about cyberattacks, Mr. Chacko said that InnaITkey stores all the credentials on the device in an encrypted form unlike others on the cloud or in the computer.

India will buy Venezuelan crude, says Minister Puri

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

India will buy Venezuelan oil as some refiners in the country have the capability to process heavy crude, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said.

Indian refiners have already resumed Venezuelan oil purchases, with Reliance Industries, Indian Oil Corp. and HPCL-Mittal Energy securing cargoes of Venezuelan oil after the U.S. lifted sanctions in October. India last imported Venezuelan crude in 2020.

"Many of our refineries, including Paradip, (are) capable of using that heavy Venezuelan oil," the Minister added.

NCLAT refuses to stay Zee-Sony merger

Thomas K. Thomas
MUMBAI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has refused to stay the proposed merger between Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEEL) and Sony. Axis Finance and IDBI Bank had challenged the merger in the NCLAT on ground that ZEEL had stood guarantee for loans they had given to an Essel group entity and they would not be able to recover the loan from ZEEL if the merger progressed.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Assurant India to hire 300 people in next 12 months

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Assurant India, a company that focuses on providing extended warranties on automobiles and mobile devices, is planning to hire 300 people in the next 12 months for its operations in Chennai and Bengaluru, said a senior company official.

"We also provide support to Global Capability Centre (GCC)," said Biju Nair, President, Global Connected Living, Assurant Inc. at an interaction.

The automobile business of Assurant was a joint venture between The Warranty Group (TWG) and TVS group between 2013-18. Following the acquisition of TWG by Assurant Inc. in May 2018, it became a 100% entity of the latter.

Mr. Nair hopes to sell refurbished mobiles in India's rural markets.

"About 100 people will be recruited for domestic operations and 200 for GCC. We will be hiring data scientists, software developers and claim administrators," said Srikanth Srinivasan, India Country Head.

Assurant Inc., has an annual revenue of $10 billion. India hosts the second GCC, while the first one is in Argentina.

"The contributions of Indian GCC to the group's turnover is small and we hope it will touch double digit over the next three to five years," said Mr. Srinivasan.

Mr. Nair said Assurant was exploring making refurbished mobile devices available in India's rural markets. "We collect 22 million devices globally every year that are in good condition. The barrier is the ability to import used electronic goods into India," Mr. Nair said.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
FOREST DEPARTMENT | O/o The Deputy Conservator of Forests
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

e-open tender invited for **One (01) work** i.e. Supply of raw materials to Sri Srinivasa Ayurvedic Pharmacy, TTD, Narasingapuram, Chandragiri(M), Tirupati (Dist). For tender notice, tender details and eligibility criteria log on to the web site **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** . For further details, contact phone number: **0877-2264518.**

Roc.No.PR4/13961/Adv.No.298/PRO/2023, Dated:15-12-2023 — **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

कार्यालय नगर परिषद, सीकर
Add:- Salasar Bus Stand Sikar Pin 332001, Email:- sikarulb.jaipur@gmail.com

No :- F.( )/MCS/SBM/2023-24/14828-830 Date:-08.12.2023

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या - /2023-24

Open Bids for ENIB No 2023-24 Dispatch No. 14822-827 Dt. 08.12.2023 Procurement for collection, Transportation of Solid waste, door to door waste segregated (dry and wet) at source and non segregated from dustbin site (complete with dustbin empitying and replacing at site), collection/remove of all garbage spots located in the boundry of the Circles in Municipal area and installation of IOT based system for monitoring of Municipal solid waste (MSW) collection of subject matter are invited from interested bidders up to 01-01-2024 at 05:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visite at the procurement portal **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/** and **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/** of the state, NIB Code and UBN Code are as under :-
NIB Code DLB2324A7946
UBN Code :-

1	DLB2324SLOB28833	3	DLB2324SLOB28835	5	DLB2324SLOB28837
2	DLB2324SLOB28834	4	DLB2324SLOB28836	6	DLB2324SLOB28838

राज.संवाद/सी/23/11594 — आयुक्त, नगर परिषद, सीकर

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN) (NIEPMD)
(Dept.of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt.of India)
Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112
Phone: 044 – 27472113, 27472423 Mobile: 9444314716
Toll Free No: 18004250345 Kiran Mental Health Helpline No: 1800-599-0019
www.**niepmd.tn.nic.in** Email: **niepmd@gmail.com**, **asponiepmd@gmail.com**

Notice Inviting Tender for Selection of Programme Implementing Agency (PIA)

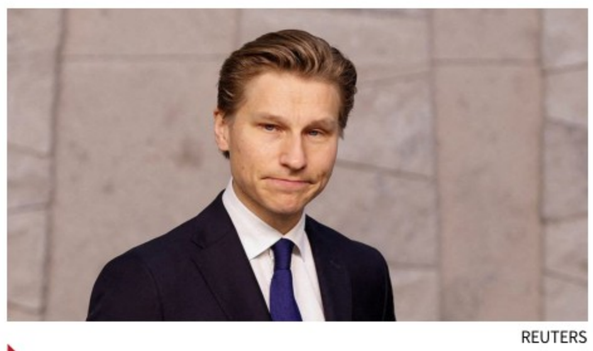
NIEPMD invites e-tender in two bid system (Technical and Financial) through NIC e-procurement portal URL **http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** for Engagement of Programme Implementing Agency (PIA) to Conceptualize, Design, Plan, Coordinate, Manage, Execute the "Divya Kala Shakthi Event" of Dept. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwDs) (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India at Bengaluru, Karnataka from **03/01/2024 to 06/01/2024**. The E-tender document may be downloaded from website **https://eprocure.gov.in/** and from website **www.niepmd.tn.nic.in** and submitted through online mode only. E-Tender must be submitted through **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app upto 20/12/2023**.

Estimated Cost of Work	Rs.30.00 Lakhs
Bid Document Download Start Date	14/12/2023
Last Date & Time for Submission of Technical Bid & Financial Bid	20/12/2023
Date of opening of Technical Bid and Presentation on proposed concept and design development	21/12/2023 at 12.00 Hrs.
Bid validity period	30 days from opening of Financial Bid

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

HELSINKI

NATO member Finland to grant U.S. access to 15 military bases



REUTERS

Finland will sign a defence agreement next week giving the U.S. access to 15 military bases in NATO's newest member. "The Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) is to be signed in Washington DC" on Monday by Defence Minister Antti Hakkanen and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the Finnish Foreign Affairs Ministry said. AFP

DUBAI

Yemen's Houthi rebels hit cargo ship in latest Red Sea attack

AFP

Yemen's Houthi rebels struck the Liberia-flagged cargo ship *Al-Jasrah*, causing a fire on deck in the latest of a near-daily series of attacks in the commercially vital waterway. The Iran-backed Houthis, say they're targeting shipping to pressure Israel during its war with Palestinian Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip. AFP

CARACAS

Venezuela, Guyana agree not to 'use force' to settle land dispute

AFP

The Presidents of Venezuela and Guyana pledged not to resort to force to settle the long-simmering and recently reheated dispute over the oil-rich Essequibo region. Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro and Guyana's Irfaan Ali shook hands after a two-hour meeting on the Caribbean island nation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. AFP

LONDON

Court rules Prince Harry is victim of phone hacking by Mirror Group

AP

A U.K. judge ruled that Prince Harry was a victim of phone hacking by journalists working for Mirror Group Newspapers, and awarded the royal £140,600 ($179,600) in damages. The decision is one in a number of legal cases brought by Harry against British media, with which the Duke of Sussex has long had a turbulent relationship. AFP

U.K., partners ask Israel to tackle settler violence

Reuters
LONDON

Britain, the European Union and more than a dozen partner countries including Australia and Canada, called on Israel to take immediate steps to tackle settler violence in the occupied West Bank."This rise in extremist settler violence committed against Palestinians is unacceptable," the countries said in a joint statement.

"Proactive steps must now be taken to ensure the effective and immediate protection of Palestinian communities."

On Thursday, British Foreign Secretary David Cameron said those responsible for settler violence against Palestinians would be banned from entering Britain, following a similar plan by the European Union.

U.S., Israel discuss timetable to scale back war in Gaza

War will take months, says U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan after meeting with Israeli officials; different phases of the war will take place at different times over those months, he adds

Associated Press
RAMALLAH

The U.S. and Israel have discussed a timetable for scaling back intense combat operations in the war against Hamas, even though they agree the overall fight will take months, an envoy said on Friday, amid growing American unease about the mounting death toll in Gaza.

U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan also met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to discuss the besieged enclave's postwar future.

Token gesture: Jake Sullivan meets Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah in occupied West Bank on Friday. AFP

Israeli discussions

In meetings with Israeli leaders on Thursday and Friday, Mr. Sullivan discussed a timetable for winding down the intense combat phase of the war.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told Mr. Sullivan that it would take months to destroy Hamas, but did not say whether his estimate referred to the current phase of heavy airstrikes and ground battles.

Mr. Sullivan said on Friday that "there is no contradiction between saying the fight is going to take months and also saying that different phases will take place at different times over those months, including the transition from the high-intensity operations to more targeted operations."

Austin's visit

He said he discussed a timeline with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israel's War Cabinet, and that such conversations would continue during an upcoming visit by U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

The offensive, triggered by the unprecedented October 7 Hamas attack on Israel, has flattened much of northern Gaza and driven 80% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million from their homes. Displaced people have squeezed into shelters mainly in the south in a spiraling humanitarian crisis.

Hungary blocks EU aid for Ukraine despite consensus on bloc membership talks

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Friday blocked 50 billion euros ($55 billion) in EU aid for Ukraine, after leaders sidestepped his opposition to agree to open talks with Kyiv on joining the bloc.

A crunch summit in Brussels broke up after a day of wrangling as the Hungarian authoritarian leader refused to greenlight funding to help prop up Ukraine's government over the next four years.

Mr. Orban called for unblocking all of the still-frozen funds from the European Union for his country, before considering lifting his veto on further aid to Ukraine

"This is a great opportunity for Hungary to make it clear that it should get what it deserves. Not half, then a quarter, but it must get the whole thing," Mr. Orban said.

Viktor Orban

"So we want to be treated fairly, and now there is a good chance that we can assert this," he added.

The wrangling injected a bitter note over the summit, a day after the leaders – minus Hungary – made the historic decision to open talks with Ukraine on it one day joining the bloc.

The second day of the summit was expected to turn to the Israeli-Hamas war in Gaza, and the search for a common EU position on it.

Divided EU

EU countries are divided between those backing calls for a ceasefire in Gaza – supported by the overwhelming majority of the UN General Assembly – and those supporting the stance of Israel and the U.S. that a ceasefire would bind Israel's hands as it tries to destroy Hamas.

With the issue of grants to Ukraine blocked by Hungary, the 26 other EU leaders have decided to hold a fresh meeting early next year to try to thrash out an agreement.

The blockage from the Hungarian nationalist – Russia's best friend

China slams U.K., U.S. criticism of bounties on Hong Kong activists

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China lashed out at Britain and the U.S. on Friday after they condemned Hong Kong police for offering bounties for information leading to the capture of five overseas activists.

Hong Kong authorities said on Thursday that the five, who fled the city after Beijing imposed a national security law in 2020, would be pursued "till the end" and offered HK$1,000,000 ($128,000) bounties for help catching them.

The move was strongly condemned by Washington, while London called it "a threat to our democracy and fundamental human rights".

But China said that the Hong Kong police force's desire to arrest the activists was "necessary and legitimate" on national security grounds and was in line with international law.

"The national security laws of other countries, including the U.S. and Britain, also have extraterritorial effects," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning at a regular press briefing.

"By cheering on these anti-China individuals, the U.S. and Britain are exposing their malicious intentions in messing up Hong Kong," Ms. Mao added.

U.K. Foreign Secretary David Cameron had said he instructed British officials in Hong Kong, Beijing and London to "raise this issue as a matter of urgency".

Maldives will not renew agreement for joint hydrographic survey with India: top official

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Hot on the heels of the Maldives' demand that Indian troops be removed from the island nation, the Cabinet has decided against renewing a 2019 MoU with India for hydrographic surveying, a top official in Malé told *The Hindu*.

According to Mohamed Shahyb, Chief Spokesperson at President Mohamed Muizzu's office, the Cabinet recently decided that the MoU, which is due to expire in 2023, will not be renewed. "It's a decision by the Cabinet," Mr. Shahyb told *The Hindu* on Friday, when asked to comment on the reason behind the move.

Following the 2019 agreement, the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) and the Indian Navy have carried out three joint hydrographic surveys in February and March 2021, April and May 2022, and in January and February 2023, according to a statement issued by the High Commission of India in Maldives earlier this year, following the latest survey. The surveys "will generate updated Navigational Charts/ Electronic Navigational Charts" that would "enhance the navigational safety of ships and enhance the Blue Economy of Maldives," the statement said.

Some government critics – mainly those part of the 'India Out' campaign led by former President Abdulla Yameen – have been opposed to the initiative. They contend it is an infringement on Maldivian sovereignty. Neither the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, nor the Indian High Commission in Malé has commented on the recent Cabinet decision.

Troops presence

Meanwhile, asked if there was any update on President Muizzu's announcement that India had "agreed" to his demand that Indian troops be withdrawn from the Island nation, Mr. Shahyb said: "it is progressing". The Maldivian President made the announcement two days after meeting PM Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the COP-28 summit in the UAE on December 2. While the MEA did not comment on his statement, sources told *The Hindu* the leaders "briefly discussed" the issue.

Sport

Pakistan makes a steady start after debutant Jamal's six-for

PAKISTAN IN AUS

Agence France-Presse
PERTH

Australian spinner Nathan Lyon moved to within three wickets of joining the elite 500-club on Friday as Pakistan dug deep to stay in touch on day two of the opening Test.

The visitors were 132 for two at stumps, trailing by 355, with a dogged Imam-ul-Haq batting on 38 and nightwatchman Khurram Shahzad on seven after they lost skipper Shan Masood late in the day.

But it was a slow grind after Aamer Jamal took six for 111 on debut to help dismiss the hosts for 487 in their first innings.

Fired up: Jamal is cock-a-hoop after sending back Carey. AP

Mitchell Marsh starred with 90 after David Warner's defiant 164 on day one. "Probably would have liked to have a couple (more) wickets, but we're happy with the score we got," Australian wicketkeeper Alex Carey said.

Abdullah Shafique was the first to fall in reply, getting a big inside edge from Lyon to Warner at leg-slip after battling to 42. It was Lyon's 497th Test wicket.

The scores:

Australia 487 in 113.2 overs (Warner 164, Khawaja 41, Head 40, Marsh 90, Jamal 6/111) vs Pakistan 132/2 in 53 overs (Imam batting 38, Shafique 42).

King's knock sets up West Indies' victory

ENGLAND IN WI

Agence France-Presse
ST. GEORGE'S (GRENADA)

Brandon King scored an unbeaten 82 and skipper Rovman Powell blasted a quickfire 50 as West Indies defeated England by 10 runs to take a commanding 2-0 lead in their best-of-five Twenty20 international series on Thursday.

Opener King produced a superb knock which included eight fours and five sixes off 52 balls as the hosts recovered from a perilous 54 for four to score 176 for seven in their 20 overs after being asked to bat.

In response, England was restricted to 166 for seven.

Sam Curran top-scored for the tourists with 50 off 32 balls, but the Englishmen were always struggling to reach the required run-rate.

King. AFP

The scores:

West Indies 176/7 in 20 overs (King 82 n.o., Powell 50, Rashid 2/11, Mills 2/30) bt England 166/7 in 20 overs (Curran 50, Salt 25, Joseph 3/39, Hosein 2/24).

West Indies won by 10 runs to lead five-match series 2-0.

It's Knotty Charmer vs. Touch Of Grey

BENGALURU: Knotty Charmer and Touch Of Grey may fight out the finish of the Vaishnavi Bangalore 2000 Guineas (1,600m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Saturday (Dec 16). There will be no false rails.

1 SEATTLE SLEW PLATE (1,400m), maiden 2-y-o only, (Terms), 1-45 p.m.: 1. Elfin Knight (4) Antony 56, 2. Golden Legend (6) S. Saqlain 56, 3. Il Volo (3) Trevor 56, 4. Jersey King (5) Inayat 56, 5. Run For The Sun (2) G. Vivek 56, 6. Balmoral (1) I. Chisty 54.5 and 7. Sienna Princess (7) A. Ramu 54.5.

1. IL VOLO, 2. RUN FOR THE SUN, 3. GOLDEN LEGEND

2 KRISHNA PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 2-15: 1. Slice Of Heaven (6) Inayat 60, 2. Singhsaab (9) B.L. Paswan 59.5, 3. Step To Destiny (8) P. Siddaraju 58, 4. Art Power (2) B. Dharshan 57, 5. Thewhisperquietly (7) Tousif 57, 6. Domina (3) L.A. Rozario 56, 7. Spirit Dancer (1) Darshan 56, 8. Quevega (10) Angad 55.5, 9. Eco Friendly (4) Afsar Khan 55 and 10. Loving Pearl (5) R. Pradeep 54.5.

1. DOMINO, 2. ART POWER, 3. STEP TO DESTINY

3 LINGANAMAKKI PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & only, 2-45: 1. Triumphant (2) A.S. Peter 60, 2. Breeze Bluster (8) G. Vivek 55.5, 3. Croissantino (1) B. Nayak 55, 4. Ardakan (3) Arvind K 53, 5. Chinky Pinky (6) R. Pradeep 53, 6. Flying Brave (4) S. Shareef 51, 7. Way Of Life (5) A. Ramu 51 and 8. Fair Counsel (7) Vinod Shinde 50.

1. BREEZE BLUSTER, 2. TRIUMPHANT, 3. FAIR COUNSEL

4 ADICHUNCHANAGIRI STAKES (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 3-15: 1. Air Display (1) Koshi K 60, 2. Solo Prince (7) Darshan 59, 3. Millbrook (3) Antony 58.5, 4. Chul Bul Rani (8) Tousif 56.5, 5. Classic Charm (4) I. Chisty 56.5, 6. Southern Power (9) Salman Khan 56, 7. Anakin (6) P. Siddaraju 55.5, 8. Cash Out (2) P. Surya 52 and 9. Ultimate Striker (5) Vinod Shinde 50.

1. SOLO PRINCE, 2. AIR DISPLAY, 3. ANAKIN

5 DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), rated 70 & above, 3-45: 1. Forseti (1) Trevor 60, 2. Yukan (4) Suraj 60, 3. Santorino (6) L.A. Rozario 55.5, 4. Cyrenius (2) Antony 54, 5. Kalamitsi (3) S. Saqlain 52 and 6. Inyouwebelieve (5) S. Shareef 50.5.

1. SANTORINO, 2. FORSETI

6 VAISHNAVI BANGALORE 2000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-15: 1. Cat Whiskers (4) Darshan 57, 2. Chagall (3) Trevor 57, 3. Knotty Charmer (1) Antony 57, 4. Marzgovel (2) I. Chisty 57, 5. Mazal Tov (6) S. Saqlain 57 and 6. Touch Of Grey (5) Suraj 57.

1. KNOTTY CHARMER, 2. TOUCH OF GREY

7 KRISHNA PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 4-45: 1. Sheer Bliss (6) P. Siddaraju 62, 2. Southern Force (3) I. Chisty 60.5, 3. Indian Blues (5) Antony 59.5, 4. Sunway Lagoon (1) M. Naveen 59, 5. Silver Swift (2) Koshi K 58, 6. Ombudsman (10) Vivek 57.5, 7. Phoenix Surprise (7) Inayat 57.5, 8. Remontoir (11) Saddam H 57, 9. Knotty In Blue (9) A.S. Peter 55.5 10. Oxytocin (4) R. Pradeep 55 and 11. War Trail (8) A. Ramu 53.

1. INDIAN BLUES, 2. SHEER BLISS, 3. SOUTHERN FORCE

8 SUTLEJ PLATE (1,600m), rated 00 to 25, 5-15: 1. Sea Diamond (2) B. Nayak 62.5, 2. Sling Shot (1) Vivek 62.5, 3. Tigerking (9) Tousif 62, 4. Ultimate Ruler (7) M. Prabhakaran 62, 5. Estefania (5) S. John 60, 6. Raffles (10) Inayat 60, 7. Double Vision (4) P. Siddaraju 59.5, 8. Recreator (6) Vinod Shinde 59, 9. Russian Romance (8) M. Naveen 58.5 and 10. Paradise Beckons (3) Rayan 53.

1. DOUBLE VISION, 2. RUSSIAN ROMANCE, 3. RECREATOR

Day's best: **BREEZE BLUSTER**

Double: **IL VOLO – SANTORINO**

Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i): 3, 4 and 5; (ii): 6, 7 and 8.

MASTER OF ALL TRADES

Deepti becomes second Indian to get fifty-fifer combo in a Test

EMMANUAL YOGINI

After scoring a fluent 110-ball 67, Deepti Sharma helped India end day two in a commanding position. She then finished with remarkable figures of 5.3-4-7-5, becoming the second Indian after Shubhangi Kulkarni (vs New Zealand, 1984/85) to make a half-century and take a five-for.

INJURED

Shubha suffers hairline fracture after dream debut

SPORTZPICS/BCCI

India allrounder Shubha Satheesh, who got her international career off to a dream start with a half century on debut on day one of the Test against England, reportedly sustained a hairline fracture on her left hand. She did not take the field with Harleen Deol stepping in as a substitute and Yastika Bhatia promoted up the order in her place.

RARE HONOUR

To honour Dhoni's contribution to Indian cricket, No. 7 jersey retired

AP

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has decided to 'retire' World Cup-winning captain M.S. Dhoni's iconic No.7 jersey. "He is a legendary player. His contribution to Indian as well as world cricket is immense. To honour his contribution, the decision to retire number seven has been taken by the BCCI," said vice-president Rajeev Shukla.

HUMDINGER

U Mumba pips Patna Pirates in a topsy-turvy encounter

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Amirmohammad Zafardanesh put up an inspiring performance to help U Mumba clinch a thrilling 42-40 win over Patna Pirates in the Pro Kabaddi League in Pune on Friday. The Iranian raider notched up 13 points. In the second match, Haryana Steelers registered a 44-39 win over Puneri Paltan.

England stupefied by India's spin sorcery

Deepti, with a five-for, spins out the visitors for 136; Sneh chips in with two wickets; the hosts swell the advantage to 478 at the end of day two against the physically and mentally exhausted visitors

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Lavanya L
NAVI MUMBAI

A hapless response to spin saw England batting for a total of just three hours and 30 minutes, eventually bowled out for 136 on day two of the one-off Test against India at the D.Y. Patil Stadium here on Friday.

This was after India added just 18 runs to its day one score of 410/7 before Sophie Ecclestone and Lauren Bell cleaning up the tail. The host then spared England the agony of a follow-on, presumably to get some time with the bat ahead of the lone Test against Australia in a few days time and to avoid batting last on a turning wicket, finishing the day on 186/6. India is ahead by 478 runs with two days to go in the Test against a physically and mentally exhausted England.

Openers Sophia Dunkley and Tammy Beaumont looked all sorts of uncomfortable when facing a pace-spin opening salvo from the India. Renuka Singh cramped Dunkley for room and struck her stumps, ending with four dismissals in four attempts against the out of form opener. Knight, Wyatt and Jones fell cheaply with Natalie Sciver-Brunt once again thrust with rescue duties. She eventually fell to a peach of a delivery from Sneh Rana with turned sharply into the stumps. Deepti Sharma got just a little over five overs to bowl, but took five key wickets to bring the curtains down on the English response in three and a half hours.

India chose not to enforce the follow on and continued with its brisk approach to scoring at over four runs an over, made clear when Smriti Mandhana got off the mark with a six over long on. England chose to give its spinners 34 of the 42 overs bowled and Dean and Ecclestone shared six wickets between them, despite continuing to be a tad expensive. Skipper Harmanpreet and Pooja Vastrakar ended the day unbeaten, with Harman sniffing her maiden Test fifty. With England's decision to go with the extra bowler, but choosing a pace option over spin backfiring, it was surprising to see Knight not bowl herself.

With the wicket showing increasing signs of assistance for spin bowling, India will hope to inflate its 478-run lead a little more and give its bowlers the opportunity to hunt for the win. England will need drastic course correction if it is to save, or more impossibly win, its milestone 100th Test match.

On song: Deepti had the English batters dancing to her tunes. EMMANUAL YOGINI

SCOREBOARD

India — 1st innings: Smriti Mandhana b Bell 17 *(12b, 3x4)*, Shafali Verma b Cross 19 *(30b, 4x4)*, Shubha Satheesh c Sciver-Brunt b Ecclestone 69 *(76b, 13x4)*, Jemimah Rodrigues b Bell 68 *(99b, 11x4)*, Harmanpreet Kaur run out 49 *(81b, 6x4)*, Yastika Bhatia c Bell b Dean 66 *(88b, 10x4, 1x6)*, Deepti Sharma c Ecclestone b Bell 67 *(113b, 10x4, 1x6)*, Sneh Rana b Sciver-Brunt 30 *(73b, 5x4)*, Pooja Vastrakar (not out) 10 *(45b, 2x4)*, Renuka Singh b Ecclestone 1 *(7b)*, Rajeshwari Gayakwad c Dunkley b Ecclestone 0 *(5b)*; Extras (b-23, lb-7, nb-2): 32; Total (in 104.3 overs): 428.
Fall of wickets: 1-25 (Smriti, 5.1 overs), 2-47 (Shafali, 8.4), 3-162 (Shubha, 32.6), 4-190 (Jemimah, 37.6), 5-306 (Harmanpreet, 62.1), 6-313 (Yastika, 66.2), 7-405 (Sneh, 90.5), 8-421 (Deepti, 99.4), 9-424 (Renuka, 102.4).
England bowling: Cross 14-0-64-1, Bell 19-3-67-3, Sciver-Brunt 11-4-25-1, Filer 15-1-84-0, Dean 19-1-67-1, Ecclestone 26.3-5-91-3.
England — 1st innings: Tammy Beaumont run out 10 *(35b, 1x4)*, Sophia Dunkley b Renuka 11 *(10b, 2x4)*, Heather Knight lbw b Pooja 11 *(23b, 1x4)*, Nat Sciver-Brunt b Sneh 59 *(70b, 10x4)*, Danni Wyatt c Jemimah b Deepti 19 *(24b, 4x4)*, Amy Jones c Shafali b Deepti 12 *(19b, 2x4)*, Sophie Ecclestone b Deepti 0 *(2b)*, Charlie Dean lbw b Sneh 0 *(9b)*, Kate Cross c & b Deepti 1 *(8b)*, Lauren Filer b Deepti 5 *(7b, 1x4)*, Lauren Bell (not out) 0 *(6b)*; Extras (b-8): 8; Total (in 35.3 overs): 136.
Fall of wickets: 1-13 (Dunkley, 2.5), 2-28 (Knight, 7.3), 3-79 (Beaumont, 18.5), 4-108 (Wyatt, 25.2), 5-126 (Jones, 29.4), 6-126 (Ecclestone, 29.6), 7-130 (Sciver-Brunt, 30.3), 8-131 (Dean, 32.4), 9-135 (Cross, 33.4).
India bowling: Renuka 9-1-32-1, Sneh 6-0-25-2, Pooja 9-1-39-1, Rajeshwari 6-0-25-0, Deepti 5.3-4-7-5.
India — 2nd innings: Shafali c Ecclestone b Dean 33 *(53b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Smriti c Beaumont b Ecclestone 26 *(29b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Yastika c Beaumont b Ecclestone 9 *(14b, 1x4)*, Jemimah c Beaumont b Dean 27 *(29b, 5x4)*, Harmanpreet (batting) 44 *(67b, 5x4)*, Deepti lbw b Dean 20 *(18b, 3x4)*, Sneh b Dean 0 *(1b)*, Pooja (batting) 17 *(41b, 3x4)*; Extras (b-10): 10; Total (for six wkts. in 42 overs): 186.
Fall of wickets: 1-61 (Smriti, 12.5), 2-71 (Shafali, 15.1), 3-77 (Yastika, 16.3), 4-109 (Jemimah, 23.6), 5-133 (Deepti, 27.4), 6-133 (Sneh, 27.5).
England bowling: Bell 3-1-6-0, Ecclestone 15-2-76-2, Dean 19-3-68-4, Cross 3-0-13-0, Filer 2-0-13-0.

Sneh and I planned where to bowl: Deepti

Sneh Rana. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Lavanya L
NAVI MUMBAI

In the run-up to the India-England Test, the host skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said she did not expect the wicket to turn while her opposite number Heather Knight felt the spinners would thrive over the course of the match.

"The surface is already taking spin, but it is not consistent and that is the hardest bit about it," said Natalie Sciver-Brunt here on Friday.

Deepti Sharma and Sneh Rana proved to be the thorns in England's flesh. "Deepti's varying lengths made things hard with the batters not knowing whether to come forward or back," said Sciver-Brunt.

"During the innings break, we saw patches on the wicket and my idea was to bowl into those patches which would give us some assistance," said Deepti, esctatic about her maiden Test five-for.

"Bowling partnerships are as important as batting partnerships because Sneh was bowling before me. So we were talking about the areas to bowl in and the flight we would get," she added.

The conditions suited the spinners a bit, says Kuldeep

INDIA IN SA

Press Trust of India
JOHANNESBURG

Surprised by the spin on offer during the third T20I at The Wanderers here, Kuldeep Yadav said the South African wickets, generally known for their pace and bounce, are also suiting spinners in the ongoing tour.

Kuldeep had a perfect 29th birthday on Thursday as he became only the second Indian bowler to pick up multiple five-wicket hauls in T20Is after Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

He became the first Indian spinner to reach the landmark. Both Kuldeep and Bhuvneshwar have two five-fors in T20Is.

"It turned out to be a special day. I have never thought about taking five wickets. I just wanted the team to win," Kuldeep said.

"I was concerned about my bowling because I was playing after sometime, so wanted to get my rhythm. It was perfect today. The ball was coming out well from the hand and the conditions too suited the spinners a bit."

Kuldeep returned with figures of five for 17 from 2.5 overs as India defeated South Africa by 106 runs to help India finish the three-match T20I series tied 1-1.

"The wickets are very good for the spinners. The good thing about these wickets are that the ball comes very quickly after pitching.

"So sometimes, you have to try your variations and if you get it right then it is very difficult to pick," he added.

India-South Africa T20I series stats

Batting	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s
Suryakumar	2	156	100	169.56	1/1
Rinku	2	82	68*	167.34	0/1
Jaiswal	2	60	60	136.36	0/1
Hendricks	2	57	49	142.50	0/0

Bowling	Inns	Overs	Wkts	BB	Econ
Kuldeep	2	5.5	6	5/17	7.37
Coetzee	1	3.3	3	3/32	9.14
Mukesh	2	5.0	3	2/34	11.00
Williams	2	7.0	3	2/46	11.14

Hardik replaces Rohit as Mumbai Indians captain

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

Hardik Pandya has replaced Rohit Sharma as the skipper of Mumbai Indians. The official statement issued by the franchise referred to the move as a "significant leadership transition."

"It is part of legacy building and staying true to the MI philosophy of being future-ready," Mahela Jayawardene, Global Head of Performance of MI, stated.

Ever since Hardik was traded into Mumbai Indians for an undisclosed sum last month, there were whispers that he was likely to take over as the MI captain. It will be interesting to see the transition period with Rohit being a part of the MI dressing room, at least for IPL 2024.

Hardik Pandya. MUMBAI INDIANS

After taking over the MI captaincy midway through IPL 2013, Rohit led the franchise to all of its five IPL titles so far. Under Rohit's leadership, India lost the World Cup final to Australia last month.

Hardik, meanwhile, was elevated as India's T20 captain last year on the back of a triumphant IPL debut for Gujarat Titans in IPL 2022. In 2023, the Titans lost the final against Chennai Super Kings.

The premier all-rounder has been missing from action since hurting his ankle during the World Cup tie against Bangladesh on October 19. He is still an uncertainty to feature in the three T20Is at home against Afghanistan, India's last T20I assignment ahead of the IPL and the T20 World Cup in June.

Bangladesh beats India; UAE stuns Pakistan

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

Ariful Islam (94) and left-arm pacer Maruf Mridha (four for 41) were instrumental in Bangladesh scoring a four-wicket win over India in the semifinal of the U-19 Asia Cup on Friday.

UAE stunned Pakistan by 11 runs to enter the final.

The scores (semifinals):
India 188 in 42.4 overs (Murugan Abhishek 62, Musheer Khan 50, Maruf Mridha 4/41) lost to Bangladesh 189/6 in 42.5 overs (Ariful Islam 94, Ahrar Amin 44).
UAE 193 in 47.5 overs (Aayan Khan 55, Aryansh Sharma 46, Ubaid Shah 4/44) bt Pakistan 182 in 49.3 overs (Saad Baig 50).

Gukesh draws with Aronian; Harikrishna outwits Arjun

CHESS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

D. Gukesh managed to draw with Levon Aronian in the first round of the Chennai Grandmasters chess championship at The Leela Palace hotel here on Friday.

Aronian, who played with white, said he was disappointed with the result and that he felt jetlagged during the match.

"I remembered that I had planned something but during the game I mixed up some moves. I think I decided to play the safest way at some point.

Harikrishna. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

My opening choice was very bad. I was playing white and I had to look for my chances.

"The tournament is so tough. Everybody is going to try and win, so you have to push with white," said Aronian.

Iran's Parham Maghsoodloo, who's ahead of all the other participants in terms of the rating points, lost to Ukrainian Pavel Eljanov.

P. Harikrishna, who beat Arjun Erigaisi, had a word of appreciation for his opponent. "I think Arjun defended really well to create chances."

Hungary's Sanan Sjugirov, who drew with Serbia's Alexandr Predke, felt it was a tough game.

The results (first round):
P. Harikrishna bt Arjun Erigaisi; Parham Maghsoodloo (Irn) lost to Pavel Eljanov (Ukr); Levon Aronian (USA) drew with D. Gukesh5; Sanan Sjugirov (Hun) drew with Alexandr Predke (Srb).

Mavericks move to the top; Brigade pull down Wizards

TPL

Sports Bureau
PUNE

Ramkumar Ramanathan played his part brilliantly to help Bengaluru SG Mavericks to a 46-34 victory over Gujarat Panthers in the Tennis Premier League on Friday.

Ramkumar beat Sumit Nagal 14-6 and combined with Vishnu Vardhan to trump Sumit and Mukund Sasikumar 13-7 in doubles.

Vishnu also won his mixed doubles with Arina who had stumbled to a 8-12 start in the women's singles against Ekaterina Yashina.

Ramkumar Ramanathan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bengaluru is on top of the table with 173 points.

The results:
Delhi Binny's Brigade bt Bengal Wizards 45-35 (Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Maria Timofeeva 13-7; Dennis Novak bt Sriram Balaji 12-8; Sahaja & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan lost to Maria & Anirudh Chandrasekar 9-11; Dennis & Jeevan bt Balaji & Anirudh 11-9).

Punjab Patriots bt Mumbai Leon Army 43-37 (Conny Perrin bt Sowjanya Bavisetti 11-9; Digvijay Pratap Singh lost to Ernests Gulbis 9-11; Conny & Arjun Kadhe bt Sowjanya & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 12-8; Digvijay & Arjun bt Ernests & Vijay 11-9).

Bengaluru SG Mavericks bt Gujarat Panthers 46-34 (Arina Rodionova lost to Ekaterina Yashina 8-12; Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Sumit Nagal 14-6; Arina & Vishnu Vardhan bt Ekaterina & Mukund Sasikumar 11-9; Ramkumar & Vishnu bt Sumit & Mukund 13-7).

Bagan cruises past NEUFC

Sports Bureau
GUWAHATI

NorthEast United FC succumbed to a 1-3 loss against Mohun Bagan Super Giant in an ISL clash on Friday.

NEUFC took the lead in the fourth minute through Phalguni Singh but Bagan equalised 10 minutes later through Deepak Tangri. Anirudh Thapa's cross inside the box found Armando Sadiku inside the box, who cushioned his header to Jason Cummings.

The Australian was in the right place at the right time. NEUFC was down to 10 men after Tondonba Singh got a second yellow.

The result:
NEUFC 1 (Phalguni 4) lost to Mohun Bagan SG 3 (Tangri 14, Cummings 28, Subhasish 71).

Need to change the mentality: Zaragoza

The 2018-19 ISL champion is down in the abyss, lies ninth with seven points; it has registered just one win in 10 matches

ISL-10

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Bengaluru FC will hope that Saturday's ISL encounter against Jamshedpur FC at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium will mark the dawn of a new era.

The 2018-19 ISL champion is down in the abyss, placed ninth on seven points with just one win from 10 matches. With Gerard Zaragoza taking over coaching duties from Simon Grayson, the club faithful will be desperate for the Catalan to sprinkle some of the stardust he may have collected from his time as an assistant to Carles Cuadrat during the title-winning season.

"We need to change the mentality," said Zaragoza, who will have two matches to work his magic before players break for the Asian Cup next month. "But first, I need to help them recover not just as football players, but as persons. They need to believe in themselves.

Task cut out: Zaragoza will helm Bengaluru FC when it faces Jamshedpur FC in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

"When we were champions, we dominated possession, counter-attacks and set-pieces. I'm Catalan and I like the offensive style, but there has to be momentum for everything. Now the team needs to organise, not only in defence but also in attack."

The visitors are also in a similar predicament, down in 10th position with six points from nine games. Scott Cooper's outfit will be as thirsting as BFC.

"I am not worried because we have created chances and we have not allowed teams to dominate," said Cooper. "Bengaluru has had many changes. The only thing we could plan on was for individual players. We expect a good match."

We are hoping for stability: says Chhetri ahead of JFC game

New beginnings: Chhetri said the team is ready to give its everything for coach Zaragoza. K. MURALI KUMAR

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

The last time Sunil Chhetri graced a Bengaluru FC pre-match media briefing at home was way back in October 2022, ahead of the Indian Super League season-opener alongside the then new manager Simon Grayson.

It took another head coach introduction for the talisman to be there again, this time next to Gerard Zaragoza, who is hoping to steer a new course for the crisis-ridden club – which is ninth out of 12 teams this season – after the departure of Grayson.

Having arrived a good 15 minutes early at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Friday, Chhetri joked around with those present. He said in jest that even his three-month-old son knew how badly the side was playing, for the baby started crying immediately on Chhetri's return after the defeat to Chennaiyin FC.

Mid-conference, the 39-year-old quipped that Zaragoza might have a full squad to train even during the break for the Asian Cup in January because, on current form, none of the BFC players will make it to the Indian party for Qatar.

But deep down, he was hurting. For nearly eight years since BFC's inception (2013), there had only been three full-time head coaches. In less than three years from February 2021, Zaragoza is the franchise's third. Between the crest and the trough, Chhetri has been a constant, and he expressed a strong desire to ride the high wave again.

"We are desperately waiting for stability," he said, ahead of the tie against Jamshedpur FC. "This is the start of a new era and I genuinely hope that we get that stability. It has reached a point where it hurts. It's me feeling as a guy who has been here from the first day. But the best part is only we can rectify it. As players, we will do everything so that our new boss gets all the help."

In the aftermath of the chastening 0-4 defeat to Mumbai City FC last Friday, Grayson had remarked that he hadn't seen any "vocal leaders in the group." Chhetri didn't quite agree.

"We're just not up to the mark. We're talking about Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, about Javi [Hernandez], about me, about Suresh [Wangjam] also now. Three of us play for the National team in the first XI.

"It's just that we are not in sync. And that's why the youngsters are struggling. I don't think it is the lack of not having leaders, but we leaders not performing.

"Individually, we are picking games not to be good at. In some games, it's me; some Suresh, [Namgyal] Bhutia, Harsh [Patre] etc. And with every loss, the confidence level is going down. So [as the coach says] it is about making sure that the mentality is right. The football will fall [into place].

Final round of MRF National Racing c'ship from today

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The fourth and final round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2023 will be held at the Madras International Circuit this weekend with a compact card of seven races across six categories.

Headlining the weekend's programme will be the two MRF Formula categories - the 2000 and 1600. Other categories include the ever-popular touring cars in three classes and the Formula LGB 1300. The battles for titles in both MRF F2000 and F1600 are as close as they can get, with a maximum of 75 points on offer across three races.

Archer Sheetal makes the gold medal round

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Asian Para Games champion and armless archery star Sheetal Devi advanced to the gold medal round in the women's compound category with a total score of 696 points on Day Six of the inaugural Khelo India Para Games at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Friday.

Sheetal will take on Jyoti Balayan for gold after the latter qualified for the final with 686 points. Sarita and Tanishka will face-off for the bronze.

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs Pakistan: 1st Test, day 3, Star Sports 1 & Hotstar, 7.50 a.m.

India Women vs England Women: Only Test, day 3, Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.

Vijay Hazare Trophy: Final, Sports 18-1 Khel & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 p.m.

TPL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 4 p.m. onwards

ISL: Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 5.30 & 8 p.m.

PKL: Star Sports 2 & Hotstar, 8 p.m. onwards

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 & LIV, 8 & 11 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 & Hotstar, 8.30 & 11 p.m.

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 9 p.m.& 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)

Serie A: Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 10.30 p.m.& 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)

West Indies vs England: 3rd T20I, FanCode, 11 p.m.

Swastic Union (2) emerge KSCA under-14 champion

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Swastic Union (2) defeated Visweswarapuram (1) by 12 runs in the final to emerge as the KSCA under-14 inter-club cricket tournament champion in Bengaluru.

The scores: Swastic Union (2) 187 in 43.1 overs (R. Nithin 51, Harish Bam 55, J. Sukruth 38, Akshaj Kathuria 3/33, R.K. Shwetansh 3/17) bt Visweswarapuram (1) 175 in 47.3 overs (Rithvik Kulasekar 73, Dhruv Akki 4/22).

INBRIEF

Six Messi World Cup jerseys sell for $7.8 million

Six jerseys worn by Lionel Messi during Argentina's winning run at last year's WC has sold for $7.8 million, auction house Sotheby's announced. The record for a game-worn item of sports memorabilia remains Michael Jordan's 1998 NBA Finals jersey, $10.1 million.

Karnataka women prevail in Super Over against Andhra

Karnataka edged out Andhra in the Super Over in the BCCI under-23 women's T20 trophy match at Raipur.

The scores: Karnataka 131/5 in 20 overs (G.R. Prerana 39) tied with Andhra 131/9 in 20 overs (Vinny Suzan 31, Pooja Kumari 5/18). *Super Over: Andhra 5/2 in 1 over lost to Karnataka 7 for no loss in 0.4 overs.*

MANIPAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
MANIPAL
(A constituent unit of MAHE, Manipal)

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR **PhD Admissions**
(Full Time with scholarship / Part Time for working professionals)

Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT), Manipal, a premier Institute in India, invites aspiring candidates for PhD program. Join to dive into cutting-edge research with state-of-the art facilities. Unleash your potential at MIT, Manipal in the following disciplines of your choice.

1. Chemistry
2. Mathematics
3. Physics
4. Geology
5. Biomedical Engineering
6. Biotechnology
7. Chemical Engineering
8. Civil Engineering
9. Instrumentation and Control
10. Mechatronics
11. Computer (Computer Science and Engineering, Information Technology, Data Science & Computer Applications)
12. Electronics Engineering
13. Mechanical (Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, Aeronautical & Automobile Engineering)
14. Electrical Engineering
15. Humanities & Management

Research Fellowship (Full time Scholars only)	
Probationary period (6 months)	Rs. 25,000/- per month
First year	Rs. 31,000/- per month
Second year	Rs. 31,000/- per month
Third year	Rs. 35,000/- per month

Last date to apply: 25th December 2023

Interested and eligible candidates can apply online.
Instructions for submitting the application, documents and application fee are available at **https://manipal.edu/mit/research.html**

For details on research and facilities, follow the QR Code

TEAM MRF – EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS ONCE AGAIN.

MRF WINS THE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE FIA EUROPEAN RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE SECOND TIME.

History was repeated when Team MRF won the 2023 FIA ERC Teams Championship. By winning the title for a second time, MRF Tyres demonstrated its superior tyre technology on different terrains against International tyre brands.

The same technology that goes into the world-class range of MRF passenger car tyres.

2022 2023

The tyres we race are the tyres you buy

www.mrfmotorsports.com | /MRFRacingOfficial | /MRF_Racing | /MRF_Racing